United Nations S/2017/222

Security Council

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The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Afghanistan, in particular its resolution 2274 (2016) extending through 17 March 2017 the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA),

Stressing the important role that the United Nations will continue to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, as well as its continued support for the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country and strengthen democratic institutions,

Stressing the central importance of a comprehensive and inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned political process to support reconciliation for all those who are prepared to reconcile as laid forth in the Kabul Conference Communiqué and further elaborated in the Bonn Conference Conclusions, aimed at creating a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan and welcoming efforts to advance the peace process, including via the High Peace Council,

Welcoming the start of the third year of the National Unity Government and emphasizing the importance of all parties in Afghanistan working within its framework in order to achieve a peaceful and prosperous future for all the people of Afghanistan,

Emphasizing the vital role of the Kabul Process and welcoming the strategic consensus between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community on the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF),

Stressing the importance of a comprehensive approach to address the security, economic, governance and development challenges in Afghanistan, which are of an interconnected nature, and recognizing that there is no purely military solution to ensure the stability of Afghanistan,

Stressing the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation in the spirit of win-win cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan and the region to create a community of shared future for mankind,

Recognizing in this regard the positive impact and ongoing importance of international commitments made in 2016 in the NATO Warsaw Summit and the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan,

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Welcoming the contribution of the International Contact Group (ICG) to the United Nations efforts in coordinating and broadening international support for Afghanistan,

Recalling the Government of Afghanistan's commitments to strengthen and improve Afghanistan's electoral process, and emphasizing the need for continued support of UNAMA, at the request of the Afghan authorities,

Underlining the importance of operationally capable, professional, inclusive and sustainable Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) for meeting Afghanistan's security needs, stressing the commitment of the international community to support their further development, and commending the resiliency and exceptional courage displayed by ANDSF as well as their leading role in securing their country and fighting against international terrorism,

Noting the ongoing work of the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1988 (2011) and the continuation of the cooperation of the Afghan Government, the High Peace Council and UNAMA with the Committee, including its Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, and expressing its concern over the increasing cooperation of the Taliban with other organizations involved in criminal activities,

Recognizing the continuously alarming threats posed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups and illegal armed groups, as well as the challenges related to the efforts to address such threats, and expressing its serious concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by all the above-mentioned groups on the capacity of the Afghan Government to guarantee the rule of law, to provide security and basic services to the Afghan people, and to ensure the improvement and protection of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing serious concern at the presence and potential growth of ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates in Afghanistan, posing serious threats to the security of Afghanistan and the countries of the region, including in Central Asia, and affirming its support to the efforts by the ANDSF to combat them as well as assistance by Afghanistan's international partners in this regard,

Expressing concern with the serious threat that anti-personnel mines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices (IED) pose to the civilian population, and noting the need to enhance coordination and information-sharing, both between Member States and with the private sector,

Expressing its deep concern about the record number of civilian casualties, as noted in the February 2017 UNAMA report on Protection of Civilians in armed conflict and condemning the suicide attacks, often in civilian-populated areas, and the targeted and deliberate killings, in particular of women and girls, including high-level women officials and those promoting women's rights, as well as journalists,

Reaffirming that all parties to armed conflict must take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians, especially women, children and displaced persons, including from sexual and gender-based violence, and that perpetrators of such violence must be held accountable,

Encouraging the international community and regional partners to further effectively support Afghan-led sustained efforts to address drug production and trafficking in a balanced and integrated approach, and recognizing the important

role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in this regard,

Expressing serious concern over the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, and supporting the Afghan Government's essential role in the provision of humanitarian assistance to its citizens in coordination with efficient and effective delivery by United Nations agencies, funds and programmes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General of 3 March 2017 (S/2017/189);

2. *Expresses its appreciation* for the United Nations' long-term commitment, including throughout the Transformation Decade, to support the Government and the people of Afghanistan and reiterates its full support to the work of UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, and stresses the need to ensure continued adequate resourcing for UNAMA to fulfil its mandate;

3. *Decides* to extend until 17 March 2018 the mandate of UNAMA, as defined in its resolutions 1662 (2006), 1746 (2007), 1806 (2008), 1868 (2009), 1917 (2010), 1974 (2011), 2041 (2012), 2096 (2013), 2145 (2014), 2210 (2015), 2274 (2016) and paragraphs 5 and 6 below;

4. *Recognizes* that the renewed mandate of UNAMA is in support of Afghanistan's full assumption of leadership and ownership in the security, governance and development areas, consistent with the Transformation Decade (2015-2024) and with the understandings reached between Afghanistan and the international community in the international conferences in Kabul (2010), London (2010 and 2014), Bonn (2011), Tokyo (2012) and Brussels (2016), and the NATO Summits held in Lisbon (2010), Chicago (2012), Wales (2014) and Warsaw (2016);

5. *Decides further* that UNAMA and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, within their mandate and in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, will continue to lead and coordinate the international civilian efforts, in full cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with the London, Kabul, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences Communiqués and the Bonn Conference Conclusions, with a particular focus on the priorities laid out below:

(a) promote, as co-chair of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), more coherent support by the international community to the Afghan Government's development and governance priorities, including through supporting the ongoing development and sequencing of the Government's reform agenda, mobilization of resources, coordination of international donors and organizations as facilitator and co-convener of development policy fora, including in developing and monitoring frameworks of mutual accountability, promoting coherent information sharing and analysis, design and delivery of development assistance in a manner consistent with Afghan sovereignty, leadership and ownership, and direction of the contributions of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in particular for counter-narcotics, reconstruction and development activities; at the same time, coordinate also in a manner consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international partners for follow-up, in particular through information sharing, prioritize efforts to increase the proportion of development aid delivered through the Afghan Government, in line with the commitments made at the Kabul and Tokyo Conferences, and support efforts to increase the mutual accountability and transparency, and the effectiveness of aid use in line with the commitments made at the Kabul, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences, including cost-effectiveness in this regard;

(b) support, at the request of the Afghan authorities, the organization of future Afghan elections, including the upcoming parliamentary elections, as well as to strengthen, in support of the Government of Afghanistan's efforts, including electoral reform efforts, the sustainability, integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, as agreed at the London, Kabul, Bonn, Tokyo and Brussels Conferences and the Chicago Summit; and provide capacity-building and technical assistance to the Afghan institutions involved in this process in close consultation and coordination with the government of Afghanistan;

(c) provide outreach as well as good offices to support, if requested by and in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan, the Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, including through support to the High Peace Council and its activities and proposing and supporting confidence-building measures also in close consultation with the government of Afghanistan within the framework of the Afghan Constitution and with full respect for the implementation of measures and application of the procedures introduced by the Security Council in its resolutions 1267 (1999), 1988 (2011), 1989 (2011) and 2082 (2012), 2083 (2012) and 2255 (2015) as well as other relevant resolutions of the Council;

(d) support regional cooperation, with a view to assisting Afghanistan utilize its role at the heart of Asia to promote regional cooperation, and to work towards a stable and prosperous Afghanistan, building on the achievements made;

(e) continue, with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to cooperate with and strengthen the capacity of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to cooperate also with the Afghan Government and relevant international and local non-governmental organizations to monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to monitor places of detention, to promote accountability, and to assist in the full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);

(f) closely coordinate and cooperate, where relevant, with the non-combat Resolute Support Mission agreed upon between NATO and Afghanistan, as well as with the NATO Senior Civilian Representative;

6. *Calls on* UNAMA and the Special Representative to further increase efforts to achieve greater coherence, coordination and efficiency among relevant United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes in Afghanistan based on a "One UN" approach in close cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan with a view to maximizing their collective effectiveness in full alignment with the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda, and continue to lead, in a manner fully consistent with the Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, international civilian efforts aimed at reinforcing the role of Afghan institutions to perform their responsibilities, with an increased focus on capacity building in key areas identified by the Afghan Government, with a view, in all UN programmes and activities, to move towards a national implementation model with a clear action-oriented strategy for mutually agreed condition-based transition to Afghan leadership and ownership including making greater use of country systems, in the following priority areas:

(a) support through an appropriate UNAMA presence, to be determined in full consultation and cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan, and in support of the Afghan Government's efforts, implementation of the Kabul Process throughout the country, including through enhanced cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in line with the Government's policies;

(b) support the efforts of the Afghan Government in fulfilling its commitments as stated at the London, Kabul, Bonn and Tokyo Conferences, to improve governance and the rule of law including transitional justice, budget execution and the fight against corruption, throughout the country in accordance with the Kabul Process and the Self-Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework (SMAF), with a view to helping bring the benefits of peace and the delivery of services in a timely and sustainable manner;

(c) coordinate and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including in support of the Afghan Government and in accordance with humanitarian principles, with a view to reinforcing the Government's capacity, including by providing effective support to national and local authorities in assisting and protecting internally displaced persons and to creating conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees from neighbouring and other countries and internally displaced persons, with a particular focus on development solutions in areas of high returns;

7. *Affirms* its continuing commitment to UNAMA, and to ensure that the Mission is able to effectively support Afghanistan, requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with best practices, to conduct a strategic review of UNAMA, examining mandated tasks, priorities, and related resources, assessing the mission's efficiency and effectiveness, in order to optimize the division of labour and configuration to ensure better cooperation and minimize duplication with other UN related organizations, and further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the results of this review by July 2017;

8. *Calls upon* all Afghan and international parties to coordinate with UNAMA in the implementation of its mandate and in efforts to promote the security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel throughout the country;

9. *Stresses* the critical importance of a continued and appropriate presence of UNAMA and other United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes in the provinces, in close consultation and coordination with and in support of the Afghan Government, in response to needs and with a view to security and including the objective of overall United Nations effectiveness;

10. *Underscores* the importance of a sustainable democratic development in Afghanistan based on inclusive, transparent and credible elections, welcomes in that regard the forthcoming organization of parliamentary elections in line with the relevant international conferences and the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver further improvements to the electoral progress and its ongoing efforts in this regard, and requests that, upon the request of the Government of Afghanistan, UNAMA provide assistance to the relevant Afghan institutions to support the integrity and inclusiveness of the electoral process, including measures to enable the full and safe participation of women and requests the Secretary General to continue to include in his reports to the Security Council relevant information on the process of integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan and further calls upon members of the international community to provide assistance as appropriate;

11. *Calls on* the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to support the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda;

12. *Welcomes* the continuing efforts of the Afghan Government to advance the peace process, including by the High Peace Council and the implementation of the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Programme, to promote an inclusive, Afghan-led and Afghan-owned dialogue on reconciliation and political

participation, including the participation of women and women's rights groups, as laid forth in the Kabul Conference Communiqué on dialogue for all those who as part of an outcome of such a process renounce violence, have no links to international terrorist organizations, respect the Constitution, and are willing to join in building a peaceful Afghanistan, and as further elaborated in the principles and outcomes of the Bonn Conference Conclusions, and *encourages* the Government of Afghanistan to make use of UNAMA's good offices to support this process as appropriate, in full respect of the implementation of measures and procedures introduced by the relevant Security Council resolutions;

13. *Stresses* the role of UNAMA in supporting, if requested by and in close consultation with the Government of Afghanistan, an inclusive Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process, while continuing to assess, including in collaboration with the AIHRC, the impact of the aforementioned peace process, with reference to the relevant parameters set out in the Kabul Conference Communique' and the Bonn Conference Conclusions, and encourages the international community to assist the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan in this regard;

14. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuation of the efforts of all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to support peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, in all formats, working toward holding early, direct talks between the Government of Afghanistan and authorized representatives of Taliban groups, and calls upon all regional and international partners of Afghanistan to continue these efforts;

15. *Reaffirms* the central role played by the JCMB, in a manner consistent with Afghan leadership, ownership and sovereignty, in coordinating, facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Government of Afghanistan's reform agenda, and calls upon all relevant actors to enhance their cooperation with the JCMB in this regard;

16. *Reiterates* the importance of increasing, in a comprehensive framework, the functionality, professionalism and accountability of the Afghan security sector in line with resolution 1325 (2000) and its successor resolutions on Women, Peace and Security through appropriate vetting procedures, training including on women's and children's rights in support of the implementation of Afghanistan's 1325 National Action Plan, and stresses the importance of the commitment by the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to ensure a capable, professional and sustainable Afghan National Defence and Security Force (ANDSF);

17. *Welcomes* in this context the continued progress in the development of the Afghan National Army and its improved ability to plan and undertake operations, and encourages sustained training efforts and assistance, including through the contribution of trainers, resources, advisory teams, advice in developing a sustainable defence planning process, and assistance in defence reform initiatives;

18. *Takes note of* the ongoing efforts of the Afghan authorities to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan National Police, calls for further efforts towards that goal, including the commitment by the Ministry of Interior and the Afghan National Police to develop an effective strategy for coordinating increased recruitment, retention, training and capacity development for women in the Afghan National Police, fully implement Afghanistan's 1325 National Action Plan, and further the implementation of their gender integration strategy, stresses the importance of international assistance through financial support and provision of trainers and mentors, and notes the importance of a sufficient and capable police force for Afghanistan's long-term security;

19. *Reiterates* its support for the Government of Afghanistan, and in particular to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF), in securing their country and in their fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and calls upon the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals and those involved in the production, trafficking or trade of illicit drugs;

20. *Reiterating* its concern about the security situation in Afghanistan, in particular the ongoing region based violence and attacks by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups, criminals, and foreign terrorist fighters, and calls upon all States in this regard to strengthen their international and regional security cooperation to enhance information-sharing, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice to better counter the threat posed, including from returning foreign terrorist fighters;

21. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all attacks, including improvised explosive device attacks, suicide attacks, assassinations and abductions, targeting civilians and Afghan and international forces and their deleterious effect on the stabilization, reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan, and condemns further the use by the Taliban, including the Haqqani Network as well as Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates, and by other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, and illegal armed groups of civilians as human shields;

22. *Strongly condemns* the continued flow of weapons, including small arms and light weapons (SALW), military equipment and IED components to the Taliban, including the Haqqani network, as well as by Al-Qaida, ISIL (Da'esh) affiliates and other terrorist groups, violent and extremist groups, illegal armed groups and criminals, and encourages Member States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter IEDs;

23. *Further condemns* all acts of violence against diplomatic and consular officials and other representatives of the international community in Afghanistan, as well as the continued high incidence of attacks against humanitarian and development workers, including attacks on health-care workers and medical transports and facilities;

24. *Welcomes* the achievements to date in the implementation of the Mine Action Programme of Afghanistan, notably the ratification of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the support of the United Nations and all the relevant actors, to continue its efforts towards the removal and destruction of anti-personnel landmines, anti-tank landmines and explosive remnants of war and to provide assistance for the care, rehabilitation, and economic and social reintegration of victims;

25. *Notes concern over* increasing child casualties and recruitment and use of children and the need for protection of schools and hospitals, reiterates its strong condemnation of all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, and calls for those responsible to be brought to justice, in this context, requests UNAMA to continue to support efforts to strengthen the protection of children affected by armed conflict, including engagement with the Afghan Government to fully implement the Action Plan and Road Map, and actions to address other violations and abuses, including sexual violence against children, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to give priority to the child protection

activities and capacity of UNAMA and to include in his future reports the matter of children and armed conflict in the country in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions;

26. *Calls upon* States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the threat to the international community posed by the production, trafficking, and consumption of illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan which significantly contribute to the financial resources of the Taliban and its associates, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility in addressing the drug problem of Afghanistan, including through cooperation against the trafficking in illicit drugs and precursor chemicals, appreciates the work of the Paris Pact initiative and its "Paris-Moscow" process, as well as the efforts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), underlines the importance of border management cooperation, and welcomes the intensified cooperation of the relevant United Nations institutions with the OSCE, the CSTO, and the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors (CARICC) in this regard;

27. *Welcomes* the continued efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in empowering the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics-led implementation of the Afghan National Drug Control Strategy;

28. *Reiterates* the importance of accelerating the establishment of a fair and transparent justice system, eliminating impunity and strengthening the rule of law throughout the country, expresses its appreciation for the anti-corruption commitments by the Government of Afghanistan and initial measures taken in this regard, stresses the importance of further progress in the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in Afghanistan, in order to improve the respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, emphasizes the importance of ensuring access for relevant organizations, as applicable, to all prisons and places of detention in Afghanistan, and calls for full respect for relevant international law including humanitarian law and human rights law;

29. *Encourages* all Afghan institutions, including the executive and legislative branches, to tackle corruption and to ensure good governance, and stresses the need for further international efforts to provide technical assistance in this area;

30. *Calls for* full respect for and protection for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, throughout Afghanistan, and notes with concern the continued restrictions on freedom of media, including attacks against journalists by terrorist as well as extremist and criminal groups;

31. *Calls for* enhanced efforts, including on measurable and action-oriented objectives, to secure the rights and full participation of women and girls and to ensure that all women and girls in Afghanistan are protected from violence and abuse, that perpetrators of such violence and abuse are held accountable, and that women and girls enjoy equal protection under the law and equal access to justice;

32. *Calls on* international donors and organizations and the Afghan Government to adhere to their commitments made at the Kabul, Bonn, Tokyo, London, and Brussels Conferences;

33. *Reaffirms* its support to the ongoing Afghan-led regional efforts within the framework of the "Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process on Regional Security and Cooperation for a Secure and Stable Afghanistan" and the Regional Economic Cooperation Conference on Afghanistan (RECCA) Summits, and welcomes ongoing efforts to build trust and cooperation, including by the Organization of Islamic

Cooperation, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), as well as through the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UK;

34. *Welcomes and urges* further efforts to strengthen the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional connectivity, trade and transit, including through regional development initiatives such as the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (the Belt and Road) Initiative, and regional development projects, such as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline project, the Central Asia South Asia Electricity Transmission and Trade Project (CASA-1000), the Chabahar port project, agreed between Afghanistan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lapis Lazuli Transit, Trade and Transport Route agreement and the Turkmenistan-Aqina and Herat-Khawaf railway segments, and bilateral transit trade agreements, expanded consular visa cooperation and facilitation of business travel, to expand trade, increase foreign investments and develop infrastructure, including infrastructural connectivity, energy supply, transport and integrated border management, with a view to promoting sustainable economic growth and the creation of jobs in Afghanistan and the region, and in this regard urges all relevant stakeholders to ensure a secure environment, integrate their development policies and strategies and promote the practical connectivity cooperation for these development initiatives and trade agreements to be fully implemented;

35. *Recalls* that regional security cooperation plays a key role in maintaining stability in Afghanistan and the region, welcomes the progress achieved by Afghanistan and regional partners in this regard, and calls for further efforts by Afghanistan and regional partners and organizations, to strengthen their partnership and cooperation, including to enhance the capabilities of the Afghan security forces and to enhance security in the region;

36. *Expresses* its concern over the recent increase in the number of internally displaced persons in and refugees from Afghanistan, strongly encourages intensified efforts by the Government of Afghanistan in making repatriation and reintegration of Afghan refugees among its highest national priorities including their voluntary, safe and dignified return, strongly supports the Government of Afghanistan's efforts to create the necessary conditions for the repatriation and sustainable reintegration of Afghan refugees in the country, and calls for continued and enhanced international assistance in this regard;

37. *Requests* that the Secretary-General reports to the Council every three months on developments in Afghanistan, and to include in his reports an evaluation of progress made against the benchmarks for measuring and tracking progress in the implementation of UNAMA's mandate, including at the subnational level, and priorities as set out in this resolution;

38. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2313 (2016), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 April 2017 and requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate not later than 30 days before its expiration. It covers major developments since my report dated 31 August 2016 (S/2016/753) and presents the findings of the strategic assessment mission.

II. Political developments

2. Haiti made significant progress in the consolidation of its democracy and stability. Presidential and partial legislative, municipal and local elections were held in a largely peaceful environment. The inauguration of Jovenel Moïse as President on 7 February 2017 marked the restoration of constitutional order and concluded one year of provisional governance arrangements under the leadership of provisional President Jocelerme Privert. The establishment of the new legislature completed all outstanding parliamentary vacancies, except for one seat. Jack Guy Lafontant, whom the President designated as Prime Minister on 23 February, is waiting for his proposed Cabinet and programme of work to be endorsed by Parliament, which will further prepare the ground for Haiti's democratic institutions to address the most pressing challenges facing the country.

3. Electoral preparations had been on track in large part for the elections scheduled for 9 October when Hurricane Matthew hit, resulting in 546 deaths, 175,509 homeless and some 2.1 million people affected. The Provisional Electoral Council postponed elections to 20 November 2016, with a second round on 29 January 2017.

4. The elections of 20 November were held in a largely peaceful and orderly manner, notwithstanding the concomitant post-hurricane challenges. A total of 27 presidential candidates, including 3 women, and 181 parliamentary candidates, including 15 women, participated. National and international observers noted the fairness and transparency of the process, albeit with low turnout (estimated at 21 per

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cent). Haitian authorities, in particular the Government, the Provisional Electoral Council and the Haitian National Police, were widely commended for their impartial professionalism.

5. On 3 January, the Provisional Electoral Council released the final results after the completion of a verification process conducted by the National Electoral Tribunal in response to the challenges submitted by the runners-up. The Tribunal ruled out the possibility of massive fraud and arbitrated that minor irregularities did not affect the electoral outcome. Consequently, the final results reconfirmed the preliminary candidate ranking, maintaining Mr. Moïse (Parti haïtien Tèt Kale) in first place, with 55.60 per cent of the 1,062,839 valid votes, followed by Jude Célestin (Ligue alternative pour le progrès et l'émancipation haïtienne), with 19.57 per cent, Jean-Charles Moïse (Pitit Dessalines) in third place, with 11.04 per cent, and Maryse Narcisse (Fanmi Lavalas) in fourth place, with 9.01 per cent. Following the Council's announcement of the final results for the first round of partial senate and legislative elections, 6 Senate and 25 Lower Chamber seats were filled, enabling the National Assembly to hold the first ordinary session of the 2017 legislative year on 9 January. On 10 January, Cholzer Chancy (Ayiti an Aksyon) was re-elected President of the Lower Chamber and, on 13 January, Youri Latortue (Ayiti an Aksyon) was elected President of the Senate and President of the National Assembly.

6. On 29 January, the second round for the remaining parliamentary seats and the single-round local elections were held in an overall orderly manner. Local elections drew a field of 31,053 candidates, of whom 12,088 were women, to fill more than 8,000 posts. According to the Provisional Electoral Council, the national turnout was 27.44 per cent. As a result of the completion of all outstanding legislative races, all 119 Lower Chamber seats and 29 of 30 Senate seats are now filled. Parti haïtien Tèt Kale won the largest number of seats, controlling 10 in the Senate and 31 in the Lower Chamber, but did not secure an absolute majority in either one. One Senate seat remains unfilled, following the arrest of Senator-elect Guy Philippe.

7. MINUSTAH supported advocacy efforts to promote the integration of the constitutional requirement of 30 per cent minimum representation of women, as provided for in the electoral decree, in close coordination with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Rights, the Provisional Electoral Council and women's organizations. Notwithstanding significant efforts, only one female Senator and three female Lower Chamber members were elected. The single female Senator was elected internally to the Senate Bureau as First Secretary and one female member of the Lower Chamber was elected internally as Chair of the commission on women's affairs and gender equality.

8. On 7 February, Mr. Moïse was inaugurated and assumed his functions as President. On the same day, the provisional President left office, concluding a peaceful transfer of power. In his inaugural address, the President called for unity, pledged to improve the living conditions of Haitians and announced the launch of a sector-based dialogue on the state of the nation.

9. The Government lived up to its earlier commitment to cover the electoral operating costs, mobilizing some $44 million of the total estimated $55 million required, in addition to allocating $6 million to the national police and providing $8.5 million to post-hurricane electoral infrastructure recovery. The Provisional

Electoral Council demonstrated increasing ownership and capacity, most notably over the technical aspects of the electoral process, and implemented several measures improving the recruitment and training procedures for electoral staff, providing greater transparency in the deployment of political party poll watchers and improving the vote tabulation centre procedures. MINUSTAH, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office for Project Services continued to provide support, albeit reduced, to the Council to produce, deliver and recover the electoral material and to implement electoral awareness-raising activities in support of the Council's civic education campaign. MINUSTAH further supported the national police in the development and implementation of the joint integrated election security plans for both electoral rounds.

10. My Special Representative, through her good offices, consistently reached out to a broad spectrum of political leaders in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and in the regions to encourage the holding of peaceful, credible and inclusive elections, including through the conclusion of electoral pacts promoting non-violence and the peaceful resolution of electoral disputes.

III. Security developments

11. The security situation remained relatively stable, notwithstanding being influenced by political volatility and grievances arising from the electoral process and an increasingly challenging socioeconomic situation.

12. Crime statistics collected by the national police and MINUSTAH for the period 1 September 2016 to 28 February 2017 indicated 546 reported homicides, compared with 510 between 1 March and 31 August 2016. Nearly 75 per cent of homicides (407), often resulting from gang violence, remained concentrated in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. In 2016, 32 killings of police officers were registered, the highest number recorded since 2006. A total of 20 kidnappings and 220 cases of rape were reported, compared with 29 and 265, respectively, between 1 March and 31 August 2016. There is evidence that many cases of rape remain unreported and unaddressed and that a culture of impunity continues to be pervasive.

13. A total of 635 public protests were recorded, of which 263 (41 per cent) were violent to varying degrees, ranging from the use of road barricades and stone-throwing to assault against police officers and shootings. This is an increase from 496 incidents reported from 1 March to 31 August 2016, of which 154 were violent, but a decrease compared with the period 1 September 2015 to 28 February 2016, during which 689 protests were registered, of which 275 were violent. The West Department remained the most affected, with 39 per cent of recorded incidents, followed by the departments most affected by the hurricane, South and Grand'Anse, with 12 per cent each. Protests were, in general, small. Of the 597 events recorded, an estimated 75 per cent involved fewer than 300 people. Another 21 per cent ranged from 300 to 1,000 people. Only 4 per cent involved more than 1,000 protesters. A total of 38 per cent were election-related and 40 per cent triggered by socioeconomic grievances.

14. On 5 January, the arrest and subsequent transfer abroad of Mr. Philippe on charges relating to drug trafficking triggered several protests in Grand'Anse

Department, including some incidents of violence. As a result, humanitarian operations were suspended from 6 to 15 January. The national police, supported by MINUSTAH, put in place additional security measures, including joint patrols, crowd-control operations and enhanced security escorts to resume humanitarian convoys.

15. A total of 67 minor security-related incidents were registered during the elections on 20 November, while 72 incidents were reported during the election on 29 January. Those incidents, which involved intimidation, disturbances and the illegal possession of firearms, did not significantly disrupt electoral operations. The national authorities arrested 81 suspected perpetrators on 20 November and on 27 and 29 January.

16. The Mission's police component continued to provide support to special crime reduction operations, performing 2,963 joint checkpoints, 3,587 foot patrols, 21,376 vehicle patrols and 243 joint operations, including 86 in the area of Port-au-Prince. The military component conducted 9,537 operations, 587 of which were joint patrols with Haitian and MINUSTAH police officers. Likewise, 18 platoon-sized quick reaction force deployments were conducted in 15 communes, using MINUSTAH aviation assets.

17. During the elections on 20 November, MINUSTAH uniformed elements were called upon on five occasions, with the police component registering three interventions in support of the national police and military troops deploying in two larger incidents in North Department. For the election on 29 January, MINUSTAH uniformed elements were deployed in 17 instances in seven departments to provide operational support to the national police: 13 times with formed police units and 4 times with military troops. In addition, MINUSTAH military troops carried out 172 escort operations to secure humanitarian aid convoys and static operations to secure humanitarian items. On 22 October, operational support was provided during a prison break in Arcahaie (West Department).

IV. Haitian National Police

18. The national police continued to improve its performance, in particular in crime prevention and response and public order management, contributing to a stable electoral environment. In the majority of incidents involving violent public unrest, the national police was able to respond with limited or no operational support from MINUSTAH. The national police assumed increased responsibility in the planning and execution of complex operations, as evidenced in the implementation of the joint integrated electoral security plans for both electoral rounds and the post-hurricane response.

19. The national police concluded the implementation of its development plan during the period 2012-2016, with a 64.6 per cent rate of implementation. Of the 69 activities foreseen in the plan, 21 were completed and 33 reached an advanced stage of implementation. Activities helped to strengthen strategic planning and the expansion of the police force and its infrastructure and response to sexual and gender-based violence, with 154 of 162 planned infrastructure projects completed by December 2016. Similarly, the national police school trained 4,850 recruits,

including 528 women, in line with the strategic objective to train an additional 5,000 personnel by the end of 2016. The twenty-seventh promotion is nearing graduation, with a potential strength of 948 new police officers, including 80 women, bringing the total strength of the police to some 14,000 personnel and a police-to-population ratio of approximately 1.3 per 1,000 inhabitants. The twenty-eighth promotion will begin training 950 cadets in May, bringing the police to its goal of 15,000 personnel by the end of 2017. With regard to sexual and gender-based violence, the national police, with the support of the Mission, created a dedicated gender and sexual and gender-based violence coordination office and began an initial assessment of the functioning of 36 reception units for the management and investigation of related cases. The number of female police officers stands at 9 per cent, below the 11 per cent target. With support from MINUSTAH and in collaboration with the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Rights the national police launched a dedicated recruitment campaign for women.

20. Areas in which little progress was made include administrative management, performance assessment, investigations into cases of excessive use of force, decentralization, equipment and infrastructure maintenance, asset control and criminal intelligence. Notwithstanding progress made following the creation of the national police academy in 2012, an estimated one quarter of police supervisory positions remain unfilled, weakening management, oversight and command and control. With regard to geographical coverage, the national police is present in 261 of the country's 570 communal sections. The limited geographical reach has, among other factors, motivated a number of municipalities to create local security forces that operate outside the command and control of the national police and on questionable legal grounds.

21. Crime prevention is negatively affected by the lack of an effective criminal intelligence bureau with criminal investigation resources and the capacity to produce reliable information to prevent and resolve serious crimes and combat organized criminal networks. Moreover, the institution's oversight and accountability mechanisms require further strengthening to ensure quality control and compliance with human rights standards. The data-processing and management capacity relating to human rights violations is not yet fully operational within the Office of the Inspector General of the Haitian National Police. The directorate responsible for studies, analysis and statistical data exists but suffers from a lack of qualified human resources and adequate logistical support. Coordinated and comprehensive community-based programmes are being implemented in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area only.

22. In the light of the above, the strategic development plan of the national police for the period 2017-2021, developed on the basis of a joint national police-United Nations police capacity and needs assessment and awaiting endorsement by the superior council of the national police, focuses on the following key areas: (a) the national police institutional framework, including the Office of the Inspector General, strategic planning and command and control; (b) human resources and training; (c) administration, technology and telecommunications; (d) public security and judicial police; and (e) infrastructure, including the maintenance of facilities and equipment.

V. Rule of law and human rights

23. Limited progress was made in the field of justice and human rights sector reforms. Of the 12 seats on the Supreme Court, 6 remained vacant and the status of the sitting head of the judicial branch of power remained unresolved, given that his term as President of the Supreme Court and, by extension, President of the Superior Council of the Judiciary expired in December 2015. On 12 September, the Minister of Justice and Public Security established a criminal law reform commission to support the adoption by Parliament of a draft criminal procedure code and a draft criminal code. The bills have yet to be submitted to the legislature.

24. Prolonged pretrial detention and overcrowding remained serious human rights concerns. Of the 10,538 people in prison as at 31 December 2016, including 348 women and 237 male and 13 female juveniles, 71 per cent were awaiting trial. The conditions, including severe overcrowding (359 per cent occupancy rate), 23 hours of daily confinement, food shortages, poor hygiene and sanitation and insufficient medical services, amount to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. Notably, the Government has not provided regular and sufficient food to Haiti's prisons for more than one year, during which time 113 deaths have been reported, attributable primarily to malnutrition and anaemia, in addition to HIV and tuberculosis.

25. Illegal arrests, the lack of defence counsel and dysfunctional judicial and prosecutorial systems remained the major cause of prison overcrowding, with an average of 1,100 days spent by detainees waiting for trial. In my previous report, I indicated that only one holding facility provided slightly more than one square meter per detainee. This has now increased to five facilities, holding 972 detainees. At the national penitentiary, living conditions for the 4,388 detainees remained the most dramatic, housing 3 detainees per square meter.

26. Efforts by MINUSTAH to curb prolonged pretrial detention included technical and logistical assistance to detention-monitoring committees and support for legal aid offices in Les Cayes, Cap-Haïtien and Port-au-Prince. Over the past 12 months, legal aid offices in Les Cayes and Cap-Haïtien processed 1,155 cases, including 52 women, resulting in 431 releases and 651 cases closed, including 30 and 35 women, respectively. The pretrial detention rate in Cap-Haïtien consequently decreased from 55 to 41 per cent. In Port-au-Prince, the five legal aid offices processed 6,232 cases, resulting in the release of 3,181 people and the closure of 943 cases. MINUSTAH focused on the Port-au-Prince jurisdiction to establish real-time file management of cases, facilitating the processing of 464 files, which ultimately helped to increase the number of criminal hearings during the reporting period by more than 50 per cent. My Special Representative has repeatedly urged the Government to more systematically address the problem of prolonged or illegal pretrial detention, requiring strong local ownership and the prioritization of judicial reform. The establishment on 24 February 2017 of a special presidential commission on prison conditions is a welcome step towards addressing the many structural deficiencies in this area.

27. MINUSTAH, in collaboration with partners, continued to support the Directorate of Prisons Administration in the implementation of its strategic plan during the period 2014-2016 and the related action plan during the period 2015-

2016. While the national police endorsed the reformed Directorate structure, the upgrading of the director to a more senior level is pending adoption by Parliament. MINUSTAH organized three training sessions for 57 Directorate officers, with a focus on intelligence and records management. In addition, with donor support, 12 Directorate officers completed "training of trainers" courses and 28 medical staff received training in the management of prison medical records.

28. As part of MINUSTAH's phased transition process, on 8 November, my Special Representative and the UNDP Country Director launched the United Nations joint interim rule of law programme involving MINUSTAH, UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), providing integrated support to the justice and human rights system. As at 27 February, 91 per cent of the first tranche, representing 50 per cent of the $4.435 million fund, had been spent or committed. To date, through the joint programme, the United Nations has, among other things, supported the Ombudsperson and the Directorate of Prisons Administration in reviewing the draft penitentiary law, with a view to improving prison management tools; recruited national consultants to assist in the review and implementation of the draft criminal procedural code and the draft criminal code; and assisted the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes in refining its internal management structure to properly exercise its oversight function and dispute resolution and take steps toward the implementation of its strategic and operational plans during the period 2016-2024.

29. MINUSTAH continued to implement its community-based approach designed to reinforce the rule of law. By December 2016, the Mission had allocated 41 per cent of its community violence reduction budget for 2016/17. A total of 37 projects of the budget for 2015/16, totalling $6.5 million, are under implementation and intended to reach 53,766 beneficiaries, including 16,130 women, in Artibonite, West and North Departments. Projects include innovative support for rule of law initiatives in fragile communities. UN-Women, UNDP and the International Labour Organization are implementing a range of these projects, from training of judicial actors on sexual and gender-based violence to reinforcing prison management.

30. Since my previous report, and notwithstanding repeated calls from my Special Representative, the Human Rights Council's Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti and civil society organizations, the Government has failed to assign the human rights portfolio to a specific ministry. Lack of clear leadership continues to hamper government action on key reforms. The mandate of the Ombudsperson, the State's independent human rights defender, expired in September. According to Haitian law, the Ombudsperson remains in office until the new Government appoints a replacement.

31. On 7 November, the Government, the Ombudsperson and seven civil society representatives participated in the second cycle of the universal periodic review during the period 2012-2016. During the exercise, 175 of the 213 recommendations proposed by the Human Rights Council were accepted by the Government. On 20 December, the interministerial committee on human rights organized a workshop to prepare the additional report requested by the Council to complete the universal periodic review process. The decision of the Council on the outcomes of the

universal periodic review report, including the additional report, is expected by 17 March.

32. There has been no significant progress in the prosecution of past human rights violations and the establishment of truth and reconciliation mechanisms that could address the most serious violations perpetrated between 1957 and 2004. In January, my Special Representative, jointly with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, published a report documenting the phenomenon of widespread popular lynching of suspected criminals, reflecting the lack of confidence in the formal justice system. Furthermore, while some cases of rape have had resonance in the media, crimes of sexual and gender-based violence are largely underreported and most perpetrators remain unpunished. MINUSTAH continued to transmit to the Office of the Inspector General of the national police allegations of the improper use of firearms by police officers causing death or serious injury. Contrary to the law, the inspectorate systematically failed to investigate most of those cases.

VI. Institutional support and strengthening of State authority

Governance and local government

33. MINUSTAH continued to support the Ministry of the Interior and Local Governance through the training of newly elected municipal councils, including supporting elected women who are represented, for the first time in Haiti's history, with more than 30 per cent (155 of 420) of the members of municipal councils, in compliance with the electoral decree. The Mission organized 70 workshops countrywide on capacity-building for community actors and municipal administrations to facilitate the transfer of power at the local level. MINUSTAH also supported the development of a handbook for all 140 municipal administrations to facilitate the handover to the new municipal councils.

34. Municipal and departmental authorities continued to improve their handling of administrative and financial procedures. As at 31 January, the 140 municipal administrations had formulated their own budget. In addition, all municipal and departmental authorities had implemented their action plans for 2016-2017, while 8 of 10 departmental delegates had organized monthly thematic working groups aimed at enhancing dialogue and promoting local conflict-resolution mechanisms.

35. MINUSTAH implemented 46 projects in support of good governance, democracy and the extension of State authority, allocating 78 per cent of its $3 million quick-impact project budget for fiscal year 2016/17. The projects reached an estimated 1,610,148 beneficiaries (52 per cent women) and focused on improving public infrastructure and services, enhancing livelihood opportunities through entrepreneurship and providing potable water to mitigate cholera and other water-borne diseases, the latter benefiting 240,546 people.

VII. Update and activities on humanitarian and development needs

A. Humanitarian activities

36. The humanitarian situation deteriorated significantly following the passage of Hurricane Matthew on 4 October. On 15 October, my predecessor visited communities affected by the hurricane, describing the situation as the largest humanitarian crisis in Haiti since the earthquake of 2010. Roads, hospitals, schools and thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed, leaving more than 175,000 people displaced and some 330,000 children unable to attend school. They were among the 1.4 million people in need of assistance. The post-disaster needs assessment estimated losses at $2.8 billion, including widespread damage to crops and livestock.

37. The Government led the coordination of the humanitarian response, including through the establishment of an interministerial committee and the Directorate of Civil Protection. MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team and humanitarian partners supported the national authorities in addressing immediate emergency and early recovery needs, including shelter for the temporarily homeless, food and non-food items, water and sanitation, protection and logistical and transport needs. MINUSTAH uniformed personnel secured aid delivery and undertook vital road repairs and maintenance.

38. The United Nations launched a flash appeal of $139 million in support of the immediate needs of 806,000 people, of which 64 per cent was secured. Furthermore, on 3 February, the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation launched the post-disaster needs assessment, with support from the United Nations country team, the European Union, the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank. The post-disaster needs assessment is aimed at providing a midterm recovery response aligned with the key priorities of the strategic plan for the development of Haiti, including through improved resilience and access to resources, the construction of integrated infrastructure, the prioritization of national production and the rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure.

39. As at 30 December, 46,691 people remained displaced in 31 camps in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. Of concern was the ongoing return of persons of Haitian descent from the Dominican Republic. Since my last report, the International Organization for Migration registered 36,735 additional individuals who had crossed the border into Haitian territory, bringing the total to 169,986 since June 2015. This situation continues to overstretch the capacity of the Haitian authorities, with most of the vulnerable returnees lacking a clear legal status.

40. The humanitarian situation was compounded by a significant increase in the number of suspected cases of cholera due to severely limited access to potable water. The Ministry of Public Health and Population reported 41,110 suspected cases and 440 deaths between 1 January and 24 December 2016, a 22 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015. In the immediate aftermath of the hurricane, some 780,000 people were vaccinated in a joint effort of the Pan American Health Organization and the Government, while the United Nations supported cholera treatment for 80 per cent of the cases throughout the country.

41. On 1 December, my predecessor apologized to the Haitian people on behalf of the United Nations, stating that the Organization had simply not done enough with regard to the cholera outbreak and its spread in Haiti and was profoundly sorry for its role. He submitted to the General Assembly a report (A/71/620) on the new approach of the United Nations to cholera in Haiti, which outlines the Organization's intention to renew its efforts aimed at eliminating the transmission of cholera and to address the suffering of its victims. In the report, it was stressed that eliminating cholera would take the full commitment of the Government and the international community and, crucially, the resources necessary. To date, a total of $9.8 million has been contributed to implement the new approach, including through the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund, against a total $400 million required.

42. My Senior Adviser on the Impact of Cholera in Haiti led preliminary consultations with the Government, civil society groups and other partners on the cholera response. In this context, criteria are being developed for community projects designed to target improvements in water and sanitation to contribute to mitigating transmission of the disease. As requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 71/161, I am preparing a report to provide an update on the implementation of the new approach.

B. Development activities

43. The protracted electoral crisis and more than a year of provisional governance, combined with the prevalence of weak governance systems and institutional instability, resulted in a crisis of confidence among the private sector and partners alike, affecting the implementation of a sustainable development agenda. Social inequalities continued to remain highly visible, further compounded by the impact of Hurricane Matthew.

44. The decline in external funding and the suspension of some budgetary support from donors constrained public investment, which fell by 25 per cent in the fiscal year ending 30 September 2016, slowing growth to near zero in per capita terms. The shock in agricultural production further depressed output and pushed up prices. The national currency reflected those strains, weakening strongly against the dollar, its main trading foreign currency. Notwithstanding those challenges, the central bank eventually managed to slow the pace of gourde depreciation and resisted monetizing the fiscal deficit.

45. Real gross domestic product growth for fiscal year 2016/17 is expected to be reduced by at least 0.7 percentage points to approximately 2 per cent. The post-hurricane response, combined with the cost of elections, brought additional fiscal pressures and further delayed reforms, including the reduction in fuel subsidies, amounting to a total of 3 billion gourdes since October 2016. Ongoing reconstruction efforts requiring an increase in the import of goods and services are projected to widen the current account deficit.

46. The Ministry of Health, with the support of the United Nations and other partners, launched the HIV/AIDS national strategic plan for the period 2017-2023. As part of the seventh national Caribbean-American Health/AIDS Awareness Day, a total of 4,000 people, including detainees and sex workers, were tested at 22 testing

sites across the country. MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team completed two projects aimed at strengthening the engagement of community leaders, women, young people and people living with HIV/AIDS.

47. In December, on the basis of the common country analysis and a human rights-based approach, the Government and the United Nations country team finalized the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the period 2017-2021, in close collaboration with civil society and development partners. As the first development framework since the earthquake of 2010, the plan seeks to support Haiti's transition from emergency assistance to long-term development, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and the national development plan.

VIII. Findings from the strategic assessment mission

48. As requested in Security Council resolution 2213 (2016), in advance of the expiration of MINUSTAH on 15 April 2017, I deployed a multidisciplinary strategic assessment mission to Haiti from 6 to 11 February 2017, led by my Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations to assess the situation in the country and make recommendations on the future role and presence of the United Nations. It was assessed that, since the establishment of MINUSTAH in 2004, Haiti and the Mission had registered a number of successes, notably in the stabilization of the security environment and the strengthening of the national police. The presence of uniformed operational capacity had contributed to the management of an often tense security situation, fed by a complex political environment. The good offices role of MINUSTAH was seen as critical in the resolution of political conflicts, encouraging a spirit of dialogue between political factions, including in connection with elections and political transitions. Notwithstanding the support provided to crucial legislative reforms, strengthening of key oversight institutions, developing a certification and evaluation process for judges and longer-term strategic plans for the Directorate of Prison Administration, progress in the areas of rule of law and human rights had been markedly slower. The outbreak of cholera in the country has had a negative impact on the country's development and on the public perception of MINUSTAH.

49. Notwithstanding the recent positive developments since the successful conclusion of the electoral cycle, Haiti is still in a delicate period of political transition, pending the formation of the new Government and the definition of its governance priorities. It is therefore important to assess how best to address longstanding risks of instability caused by a combination of a culture of zero-sum politics, deep-rooted political polarization and mistrust, poor socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions and weak rule of law institutions and serious human rights challenges. At the same time, the national police, the only Haitian security force, has yet to build adequate capacity to address all instability threats inside the country, independent of an international uniformed presence and in line with human rights standards. Both the threat assessment and the assessment of national police capacities suggest the need for the provision of continuous operational support in parts of the country, including the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince with its continued gang activity, and North and South Departments, where the presence of the national police remains low.

50. The guiding principle for the future role and presence of the United Nations in Haiti is to ensure a responsible transition that builds on the achievements of the past 13 years and allows for continued support for the priority stabilization and capacity-building needs in the country. A key element will be to ensure that no security vacuum is created or perceived by a sudden, complete withdrawal of the Mission's uniformed operational elements, which spoilers may be tempted to exploit. Instead, a gradual withdrawal will ensure a progressive testing of the national police's capacity to assume, over time, full responsibility for the security needs in the country, including an increase in public confidence. Such a strategy would reduce the possibility of a repetition of the failures of past transitions, such as the rapid decline of national police capacity, impartiality and credibility following the closing of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Haiti in March 2000, which led to the ensuing electoral crisis and large-scale public unrest. The second important consideration is to ensure that the follow-on United Nations presence is able to exercise a strong political and good offices role that remains crucial to enabling a stable political environment and accompanying Haiti towards further progress and its reform priorities, in particular with regard to the rule of law and human rights.

IX. Conduct and discipline

51. MINUSTAH continued to enforce the Organization's policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse. It pursued the implementation of a three-pronged conduct and discipline strategy for all categories of United Nations personnel. The measures consisted of prevention of misconduct, training and awareness-raising activities, community outreach and awareness-raising and the enforcement of United Nations standards of conduct, complemented by remedial action through assistance to victims.

X. Financial aspects

52. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/276, appropriated the amount of $345.9 million for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 22 February 2017, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to $55.7 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $1,840.4 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs has been made for the period up to 31 October 2016, while reimbursement of the costs of contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

XI. Observations and recommendations

53. Haiti reached a major milestone on its path to stabilization, with the peaceful conclusion of the electoral process and the return to constitutional order on 7 February 2017. I commend the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the national authorities, including the Government, the Provisional Electoral Council and the Haitian National Police, to finance, organize and provide security for

credible and inclusive elections, notwithstanding the humanitarian impact of Hurricane Matthew. The success of the elections and the smooth transition of power to a new President bear testimony to the increased maturity and capacity of the Haitian institutions and the growing commitment of the country's key stakeholders to addressing differences through dialogue and legal channels. While disheartened by the low number of women elected to Parliament, I am pleased with the considerable number elected to municipal office. I urge all Haitian actors to continue to support women's engagement in political decision-making and their increased participation in public office at all levels.

54. I congratulate the President on his election and inauguration. I am encouraged by his stated intention to serve the interests of all Haitians and to promote a sense of unity in the country, following a period of political polarization preceding the elections. I am also encouraged by calls from political and civil society leaders for a broad-based dialogue to forge a common vision for progress and reform in key areas, including development, the consolidation of the rule of law and possible constitutional reform. I urge the President, together with his new Government and Parliament, to move this dialogue process forward and to articulate an institutional reform agenda with priorities that address the most pressing sociopolitical and economic challenges. In that regard, I encourage the swift formation of the new Government on the basis of a smooth parliamentary approval process.

55. The return to constitutional order and a continued period of political stability ahead will, it is hoped, allow Haiti to move from economic fragility to sustainable growth, with the help of significant international assistance and the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework for the period 2017-2021. Haiti will also continue to require longer-term support to address the humanitarian needs subsequent to the cholera outbreak and the passage of Hurricane Matthew and the country's general vulnerability to natural disasters.

56. The development of a joint MINUSTAH and United Nations country team transition plan builds on the tangible results achieved by the completion of the Mission's consolidation plan at the end of 2016. The finalization and implementation of this transition plan must be rapidly achieved following the decision of the Security Council on a future United Nations presence and should be based on a shared vision between the United Nations family and the Government. The year 2017 is an important one for the consolidation of the hard-won gains of previous years, given the new Haitian leadership, and the United Nations transition process should be carefully planned so as to bolster sustainability in the longer term.

57. I therefore recommend, in line with the findings of the strategic assessment, that the mandate of MINUSTAH be extended for a final period of six months and that the Mission close by 15 October 2017. The military component should undergo a staggered but complete withdrawal of the 2,370 personnel within this time frame. Likewise, the Mission's civilian tasks would be reduced immediately, in a phased manner.

58. I also recommend that the closure of MINUSTAH be accompanied by the establishment of a successor mission, with a new name, which would work in an integrated manner with the United Nations country team in addressing residual stabilization needs in the country. The successor mission would be a smaller peacekeeping operation focused on rule of law and police development. The good

offices and advocacy role of the mission leadership at the political level would remain at the core of its mandate to support political stability, good governance, including electoral oversight and reform, the rule of law and human rights with gender principles holistically mainstreamed. The mission would be headquartered in Port-au-Prince, from where it would also monitor and exercise an early warning function for conflict prevention, human rights and rule of law issues at the local level through the use of mobile teams.

59. The successor mission would retain 7 formed police units, reduced from the current 11, deployed to five regional departments to safeguard the fragile security gains of the past years though the provision of operational support to the national police and through a robust deterrence posture. The number of formed police units would be adjusted downward and harmonized with the gradual build-up of the national police within a two-year time frame.

60. The continued presence of a complement of 295 individual police officers, reduced from the current 1,001, would play a key role in the implementation of the priorities contained in the strategic development plan of the national police for the period 2017-2021, in line with international human rights standards. The individual police officers would be responsible for supervisory mentoring and for providing strategic advice to senior-level officers assigned to the police academy, departmental directorates, main commissariats, specialized units and the office of the Director General of the national police. The technical advisory programme would require the identification of highly qualified individual police officers, supported by a number of civilian posts, to provide training on the national police's administrative capacity, such as strategic planning, procurement, budget, payroll and fuel management. Government-provided corrections personnel would be reduced from the current level of 50 to 38, with an approach focusing on more fully engaging the national police in efforts to strengthen the management of the Directorate of Prison Administration.

61. An innovative approach to the rule of law is required. Such efforts should be planned, led and implemented by Haitian counterparts, building on a thorough assessment to be conducted by the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-Conflict and Other Crisis Situations and on experiences from the region. In addition to addressing the challenges of the criminal justice chain with the aim of specifically encouraging and supporting the engagement of Haitian institutions in rule of law reform and anti-corruption efforts, focus should also be placed on improving the commercial law framework and providing incentives to attract greater foreign investment in Haiti. The approach should increase the emphasis placed on integrated programmatic activities for capacity-building, including through community approaches in fragile communities, and mutual accountability with the Government supported by the successor mission's strong good offices. The rule of law efforts of the successor mission should be part of a strategy towards a continued, progressive transition of activities to development actors, drawing upon assessed programmatic funding, while increasingly relying on donor contributions through resource mobilization. The successor mission could also be positioned to provide support to the "Etats généraux sectoriels de la Nation", a priority announced by the President to bring people closer to State institutions and to a possible constitutional reform process, at the request of the Government.

62. Given that human rights is an essential element to Haiti's stability, the successor mission would also be mandated to conduct human rights monitoring, reporting and analysis and, in consultation with the Government, provide support to address impunity and strengthen the capacity of rule of law and human rights institutions and civil society, in line with, among other things, the human rights due diligence policy. It is also recommended that the successor mission, in coordination with the United Nations country team, develop a coherent strategy on gender and sexual and gender-based violence and provide support to the systemization of programming on gender and sexual and gender-based violence in the security and judicial institutions to help to ensure that victims have access to justice and that existing laws are applied.

63. With the completion of the consolidation plan of MINUSTAH and the implementation of a transition plan, a broader framework of mutual accountability or "compact" among the incoming Government, the United Nations and the international community could be developed as part of a political strategy to enhance the effectiveness of the support of the follow-on United Nations presence in the country. Doing so would help to focus relevant commitments, taking into account the existing aid coordination mechanisms and accountability frameworks, thereby paving the way for Haiti's removal from the Security Council agenda. Strong Haitian ownership, in addition to broad international support, will be required. As the United Nations gradually and responsibly draws down its presence, I encourage international partners and individual Member States to also review the support that they provide to Haiti to minimize the risk of jeopardizing the gains attained to date.

64. The United Nations country team should work to strengthen the humanitarian-development-stabilization nexus, with more integrated and streamlined analysis and planning. Both it and the successor mission, together with the Government, should conduct a common risk assessment and base humanitarian capacity-building and preparedness plans on the agreed outcomes of such an assessment. A solid integrated coordination office under a Deputy Special Representative-Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator within the successor mission structure should help to spearhead such processes, which should form part of a revived and Government-led aid coordination effort aimed at harmonizing existing development frameworks and establishing priorities, with support from the United Nations.

65. Notwithstanding recent progress, the country remains extremely vulnerable to cholera. Root causes of the epidemic remain. Only 25 per cent of the Haitian population has access to adequate sanitation, only 58 per cent has access to safe water and access to health-care services is limited. Nevertheless, there has been significant progress in reducing the number of suspected cases since the passage of Hurricane Matthew. It is critical that this momentum be maintained and that both tracks of the new approach to cholera be adequately funded. Political engagement with the authorities at the Mission leadership level will complement implementation efforts by the county team under the coordination of a Deputy Special Representative-Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator.

66. The concurrent closure of MINUSTAH and start-up of a successor Mission will be planned in a manner to ensure that critical functions are defined and appropriate support capacity maintained, in particular given that the geographic

distribution of MINUSTAH will pose challenges to its drawdown and closure. These processes will be performed in compliance with United Nations environmental management guidance.

67. In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to my Special Representative for Haiti, Sandra Honoré, for her invaluable contributions to Haiti's stability and to the civilian and uniformed personnel of MINUSTAH for their unwavering commitment during the past 13 years to achieve MINUSTAH's mandate. I would also like to pay tribute to the United Nations country team, as well as to donors and partners, for their continued support and engagement in Haiti.

Annex I

Consolidation plan for the period 2013-2016 for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

1. In my report to the Security Council of 8 March 2013 (S/2013/139), I outlined a plan for the consolidation of MINUSTAH that focused Mission activities on a core set of mandated tasks, to be achieved by the end of 2016. In the process of consolidating its substantive, security and support pillars, MINUSTAH was to progressively reduce its engagement in areas in which other international actors had a comparative advantage or long-term institution-building went beyond the expected lifetime of the Mission. Over the past four years, MINUSTAH has scaled down from 6,270 to 2,370 troops and reduced its yearly budget from $648,394,000 in 2012-2013 to $346,688,800 in 2016-2017. The consolidation plan has enabled the Mission to deliver on its key functions more efficiently and cost-effectively, while reducing its footprint.

Police development

2. The police component of MINUSTAH has focused its activities on increasing the national police's operational and administrative effectiveness. The goal of training at least 1,000 new police officers annually was achieved, and following the graduation of the twenty-eighth promotion at the end of 2017, the national police will reach the minimum target of 15,000 officers, with 9 per cent women. Support from co-located MINUSTAH police officers has helped to increase the professionalization of the police school and the police academy, which, with six new classrooms and four dormitories, can train 88 mid-level and upper-level officers at a time.

3. The national police's administrative capacity was enhanced through the joint drafting of logistical management manuals and MINUSTAH-provided training on human resources, communications and fleet and armoury management. Setting up the "114" emergency number, at a cost of $11 million, has allowed for easier access to police services and faster response times. Specialized skills were improved through MINUSTAH-facilitated training sessions in areas ranging from criminal investigation and ballistics to crowd control. The fact that, in crowd-control training, nearly 90 per cent of officers were trained by national trainers signals the police's commitment to assuming full training responsibility. The strengthening of specialized capacity in the prison system has included the development of a prison health-care policy, the adoption of prison emergency plans and training on prison records management. Haiti's border management still has limited operational capacity, but a land border police directorate has been established, with 120 graduates from the twenty-seventh promotion soon to receive specialized training.

4. With the 2016/2017 budget of the national police amounting to $132 5 million, the Government now spends 7.2 per cent of its budget on the police. This represents a significant increase compared with the 4.77 per cent figure in 2012-2013.

5. The proportion of police officers deployed outside the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince has been raised to 43.9 per cent, well beyond the 33 per cent

benchmark. Although the police has attained a presence in all 140 communes across the country, it is still present in only 262 of 570 communal sections and requires additional police stations and more equipment and personnel per station to fully operate.

Electoral capacity-building

6. The Provisional Electoral Council demonstrated leadership over the electoral process and progressively improved both its performance and the quality of the process by adopting a number of policies and measures designed to increase operational efficiency and to solidify the integrity of the institution, with reduced support from the United Nations and other partners. The successfully completed first and second rounds of the elections marked the first time that the Government has borne the costs of electoral operations with limited financial assistance from donors. National and international observer groups alike concurred in their favourable assessment of the elections.

7. Operationally, there has been a clear emphasis on practical training targeting the weaker areas identified in previous elections, such as the training of poll workers and the planning and coordination of electoral operations. Policies have been introduced to increase the accountability of electoral officials and impose penalties for those violating their code of conduct. The Provisional Electoral Council's efforts bolstered public confidence in the electoral management body. Notwithstanding these improvements, the Council remains fragile institutionally owing to its non-permanent status. Broader electoral reforms, including the establishment of a permanent electoral council, the review of both the electoral legal framework and the dispute mechanisms, and capacity-building for the operational and logistical capacities of a reformed council can build on these steps.

Rule of law and human rights

8. The protracted political crisis, among other factors, hampered progress in the rule of law and human rights area. Long-standing vacancies on the Supreme Court limited its functioning, yet the Government has not managed to appoint new judges, and the vetting process for new magistrates has stagnated. The Office of the Ombudsperson was operationally strengthened through the placement of an international expert to assist in developing its strategic plan but it continues to lack sufficient funding, while the implementation of the strategic and operational plan of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes is still in its initial stages. Ongoing tension between the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the Ministry of Justice has hampered the former's development and its ability to control judges' personnel files or manage their career development. Independence of the judiciary, a key rationale for the creation of the Superior Council, is still far from guaranteed.

9. While MINUSTAH provided support for the drafting of new laws, the adoption of new legislation has stagnated. The draft criminal code and criminal procedural code, a law on gender equality and a framework to counter violence against women all await adoption. MINUSTAH supports the Ministry of Justice's criminal law reform commission, which was established in September 2016 to advance the adoption of legislation. Positive exceptions have been the adoption by

Parliament in September of laws to counter money-laundering and human trafficking and its approval of the reorganization of the financial intelligence unit.

10. Support provided by MINUSTAH has, however, led to tangible improvements. The national police has now vetted more than 10,000 of its officers, while the Office of the Inspector General has improved the quality and number of its investigations through co-location with MINUSTAH police officers. The Directorate of Prison Administration has developed policies and procedures to ensure compliance with human rights standards in all prisons.

Key governance issues

11. MINUSTAH has worked with the Ministry of the Interior and Local Governance to improve public service delivery through support for local and departmental administrations. As a result, all 140 municipalities are now able to formulate their own budgets, and the public procurement system has been improved through the establishment of the national commission for public procurement. Further professionalization of local governance is under way through the municipal administration modernization programme, supported by MINUSTAH.

12. In cooperation with MINUSTAH, on 27 September, the Provisional Electoral Council launched an electoral pact for the preservation of peace, to support a peaceful climate for the elections and a commitment to using the established electoral dispute resolution channels. Doing so assisted in the conclusion of the electoral process without major incidents and in complaints from presidential candidates being handled through the appropriate channels.

Annex II

Composition and strength of the police of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as at 23 February 2017

	United Nations police officers		*Formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Argentina		15		
Bangladesh	1	19	82	218
Benin		39		
Brazil		3		
Burkina Faso	6	40		
Cameroon	15	5		
Canada	10	81		
Chad		4		
Chile		4		
Colombia	7	33		
Djibouti		5		
Egypt		6		
El Salvador	2	29		
Ethiopia		8		
France		1		
Germany	1	2		
Ghana	1	9		
Guinea		4		
India		13		439
Indonesia	5	11		
Jamaica		1		
Jordan		33		316
Madagascar	4	30		
Mali	2	36		
Nepal		16	13	125
Niger	13	71		
Nigeria	1	2		
Norway	3	3		
Pakistan				139
Paraguay		1		
Philippines	1	11		
Portugal		1		
Romania	3	24		
Russian Federation	1	8		

	United Nations police officers		*Formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Rwanda	1	17	21	139
Senegal		15	14	144
Serbia		4		
Slovakia	1	5		
Spain		3		
Sri Lanka		2		
Sweden	1	3		
Togo	21	9		
Tunisia		10		
Turkey		10		
United States of America	1	18		
Uruguay		5		
Yemen		14		
	101	683	130	1 520
Total		**784**		**1 650**
				2 434

Annex III

Countries providing military staff and contingents to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti as at 31 January 2017

	Staff officers		*Troops*		
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*
Argentina		6	25	41	72
Bangladesh		2	2	108	112
Bhutan		1			1
Brazil[a]		12	15	954	981
Canada	1	4			5
Chile		3	14	373	390
Ecuador		1			1
El Salvador				43	43
Guatemala		2	5	47	54
Honduras				47	47
Jordan		3			3
Mexico		3		3	6
Nepal		3			3
Paraguay		1	5	77	83
Peru		3	9	148	160
Philippines		2	14	120	136
Sri Lanka		2			2
United States of America	1	4			5
Uruguay		5	14	220	239
Total	**2**	**56**	**103**	**2 181**	**2 343**

[a] The Force Commander is employed on a United Nations contract and hence is not reflected in the troop strength.

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Report of the Secretary-General on South Sudan (covering the period from 16 December 2016 to 1 March 2017)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 2327 (2016), by which the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) until 15 December 2017 and requested me to report on the implementation of the mandate every 90 days. It covers developments from 16 December 2016 to 1 March 2017 and contains recommendations on the steps to adapt UNMISS to the situation on the ground and to increase the efficiency of the implementation of its mandate.

II. Political and economic developments

Peace process

2. Since the adoption on 16 December 2016 of resolution 2327 (2016), there has been minimal progress towards implementation of the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (the peace agreement). Gichira Kibara (Kenya), the new Chair of the National Constitutional Amendment Committee established under chapter I of the peace agreement, visited Juba in December. During his visit, he consulted with members of the Constitutional Amendment Committee and the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission on the Amendment Committee's work and the need to develop an action plan for the implementation of the mandate of the Committee. On 15 December, the Ministry of Justice inaugurated the technical committee for the consultative process on the establishment of the Commission for Truth, Reconciliation and Healing, in accordance with chapter V of the peace agreement. The technical committee is chaired by the Ministry of Justice and includes representatives from the Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, the South Sudan Peace Commission, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and faith-based and civil society organizations. Since its establishment, the technical committee has started mapping conflict patterns and hotspots to be considered for national consultations.

3. On 14 December, the President of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, announced the launch of a national dialogue initiative under his patronage. The President stated that the process would take a three-phased approach starting with grass-roots consultations, followed by regional peace conferences and culminating in a national conference in Juba. He further said that the Transitional Government of National

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Unity would work closely with regional and international partners to enhance the credibility and effectiveness of the process. On 16 December, the Transitional National Legislative Assembly endorsed the national dialogue proposal.

4. On 19 December, Mr. Kiir appointed four advisers as patrons of the process and a 26-member National Dialogue Steering Committee comprising parliamentarians, retired military commanders and religious leaders, with the mandate to develop an agenda and timetable for the national dialogue that would not contravene the terms of the peace agreement. The Steering Committee will be assisted by five advisers and a 15-member secretariat representing seven national institutions. In a letter dated 1 March 2017 addressed to Mr. Kiir, Paride Taban, Bishop Emeritus of the Catholic Diocese of Torit, asked to be excused from his role as Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, citing his advanced age and previous retirement from official functions.

5. On 21 February, speaking at the opening of the second session of the Transitional National Legislative Assembly, Mr. Kiir stressed that the national dialogue, as the chief priority of the Government for 2017, was designed with flexibility and transparency to unite the people of South Sudan and consolidate peace and security. According to the President, other priority tasks for 2017 include implementation of the peace agreement, economic recovery and improved relations with regional and international partners.

6. Mr. Kiir's national dialogue initiative received mixed reactions. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) in Opposition, led by Riek Machar, welcomed a national dialogue process in principle but raised concerns regarding the political context and implementation modalities, in particular Mr. Kiir's credibility to lead the process. They asserted that national dialogue must be anchored in accountability and justice through the Hybrid Court for South Sudan and be complementary to the peace agreement. The exiled leader of the National Democratic Movement, Lam Akol, argued that peace was a prerequisite for a meaningful bottom-up national dialogue and called for an inclusive national dialogue conference to be held outside the country and facilitated by a neutral entity. Other opposition leaders, including from the Democratic Change Party and the former political detainees, welcomed the initiative, but stressed the need for inclusivity. Civil society and faith-based organizations generally supported the concept of a grass-roots approach to a national dialogue, although some organizations, including the South Sudan Council of Churches, have expressed reservations over the current configuration of the Steering Committee. The voluntary civil society task force on the implementation of the peace agreement discussed the role of civil society organizations in the national dialogue initiative and agreed to consult the population and present their findings to the Steering Committee for consideration.

7. On 29 January, on the margins of the twenty-eighth African Union Summit, the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the United Nations held a consultative meeting and issued a joint statement expressing deep concern over the continuing spread of fighting, risk of mass atrocities and the dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan. The statement called for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an inclusive political process. The three organizations encouraged the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, Alpha Oumar Konaré, to undertake active shuttle diplomacy towards ensuring inclusivity in the national dialogue and implementation of the peace agreement, in close consultation with the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Festus Mogae, as well as IGAD and the United Nations.

Other political developments

8. On 14 January, Mr. Kiir issued a decree creating four additional states in greater Upper Nile and Western Equatoria and rearranging state administrative boundaries. The decree now brings the total number of states to 32 from the 28 created by establishment order 36/2015. The pro-Machar SPLM/A in Opposition and the National Democratic Movement condemned the creation of new states. Also in January, Mr. Kiir replaced the governors of Boma, Eastern Nile, Gbudwe, Gogrial, Ruweng and Twic, and appointed governors for the newly established states and renamed states of Akobo, Bieh, Central Upper Nile, Northern Upper Nile, Latjor, Maiwut and Tambura. During their swearing-in ceremony on 20 January, Mr. Kiir urged the new governors to improve intercommunal relations and directed them to lead the national dialogue process in their respective states. In early February, Mr. Kiir also replaced the governors of Imatong and Fashoda.

9. Since February, five senior government and military officials have resigned from their positions, accusing Mr. Kiir and the SPLA command of pursuing an agenda of ethnic domination through the Jieng (Dinka) Council of Elders. These included the SPLM/A in Opposition-nominated Minister of Labour, Public Service and Human Resources Development, the SPLA Deputy Chief of General Staff for Logistics, the SPLA Head of Military Courts, the SPLA Director of Military Justice and the SPLA Logistic Support Brigade Commander.

Economic developments

10. December became the thirteenth month of triple-digit inflation, with the year-on-year consumer price index estimated at 479.7 per cent, largely driven by the increasing devaluation of the South Sudanese Pound and compounded by continued low oil production. The rapid depreciation of the currency and salary arrears further undermined household purchasing power across South Sudan. On 14 January, Mr. Kiir replaced the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Central Bank as well as the Deputy Minister for Finance and Economic Planning. On 23 January, the President replaced the Board of Directors of the state-owned Nile Petroleum Company, followed by the replacement of the Managing Director on 20 February. The President instructed the newly appointed officials to urgently address the deteriorating economic situation. Furthermore, with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan and the African Development Bank, the International Monetary Fund concluded its 2016 article IV mission to South Sudan in early December, and called for the implementation of fiscal stabilization measures and prudential action in the public financial management framework to address economic challenges. The Fund urged the authorities to eliminate fuel subsidies and ghost workers on government payrolls and reduce the costs of foreign diplomatic missions, as well as to enforce minimum reserve requirements.

III. Security situation

11. The security situation remained tense across Greater Equatoria, Greater Upper Nile and Western Bahr el-Ghazal, with devastating consequences for the civilian population. Operations of SPLA in southern Central Equatoria and parts of Western Equatoria resulted in significant civilian displacement and reports of serious and systematic human rights violations. Mass displacement has also increased the incidence of sexual violence by militias, armed youth and elements of security forces. Repercussions from the split in the SPLM/A in Opposition and the subsequent realignment among local commanders resulted in periodic fighting and

persistent insecurity in Unity. In Upper Nile, internal tensions led to low-level fighting among Shilluk forces, followed by fighting starting in late-January between predominately Shilluk forces allied with SPLA in Opposition and militias aligned with SPLA near Malakal and in Wau Shilluk, resulting in large-scale civilian displacement. Sporadic clashes between government and opposition forces in Western Bahr el-Ghazal also led to persistent insecurity and sustained civilian displacement.

Greater Equatoria region

12. Greater Equatoria continued to see SPLA operations against armed opposition elements. In Central Equatoria, the deployment of a large number of SPLA soldiers and the presence of armed opposition elements in the Yei area continued to cause insecurity and civilian displacement. Following the deployment of National Security Service personnel to Yei in early December, the security situation in Yei town improved, but insecurity in surrounding areas continued. On 24 December, the National Security Service and an SPLA-affiliated armed group allegedly clashed on the Yei-Maridi road, two kilometres from Yei, resulting in the death of two SPLA soldiers. On 2 January, two male civilians were allegedly detained by SPLA forces in the area and were later found dead. On 6 January, SPLA in Opposition forces reportedly clashed with SPLA in Morobo, south of Yei, escalating fighting in the area. UNMISS conducted three patrols to Yei town, but has faced continuous obstruction from the authorities, preventing patrols to the surrounding areas. In Juba, criminality, looting of civilian property and harassment of civilians, fuelled by a failing economy, were a daily occurrence. During fighting between SPLA and opposition forces starting on 22 January in Mondikolok, Lire Payam, in Kajo Keji County, seven civilians were allegedly killed and one woman raped. Fighting continued on 23 January, with an alleged attack on the Mere police station in Lire Payam, resulting in two casualties. With some 30,000 civilians having fled the area, the small population left in Kajo Keji town consists largely of the elderly, women and children. UNMISS also received reports that Dinka Bor cattle keepers supported by SPLA clashed with armed opposition elements in Kajo Keji and Nyepo Counties. After repeated attempts starting in early February, UNMISS was finally able to gain access to the area during the period 6 to 9 February and found that a large number of civilians had been displaced and that SPLA soldiers had looted houses and arbitrarily arrested civilians.

13. In Eastern Equatoria, insecurity along major roadways remained a concern. On 17 December, one South Sudan National Police Service officer and a child were reportedly killed in an ambush west of Magwe, while a number of SPLA soldiers were reportedly killed in an ambush west of Torit town. Several ambushes were allegedly carried out by armed men in government uniforms against civilian vehicles. On 2 January, suspected SPLA in Opposition forces clashed with SPLA along the Torit-Juba road, west of Torit town, killing three SPLA soldiers and injuring two others. On the same day, suspected SPLA in Opposition elements attacked a prison facility along the Torit-Magwe road, south-west of Torit town. Six prison guards were later reported missing. On 3 January, two fire brigade members were reportedly killed when opposition elements attacked the police post at Lolere, west of Torit town on the Torit-Juba road.

14. In Western Equatoria, South Sudan People's Patriotic Front elements reportedly attacked a military post at Bazungua in Yambio County on 18 December, killing two government-aligned South Sudan National Liberation Movement soldiers. On 28 December, suspected members of the Patriotic Front ambushed an SPLA convoy and killed two SPLA soldiers at Rimenze Boma, north-east of Yambio town. The Government reportedly continued military operations targeting the

Patriotic Front in Rimenze, Bazungua, Bodo and Buzumburu in January. Internally displaced persons from those areas claimed that SPLA soldiers had killed civilians, sexually assaulted women, looted and destroyed property.

Greater Upper Nile region

15. The security situation remained tense in the greater Upper Nile region, with reports of clashes in parts of Upper Nile throughout the reporting period. In late December, fighting broke out between the host community and refugees from the Doro refugee camp in Bunj, Maban County, leading hundreds of refugees to seek protection in the vicinity of UNMISS and United Nations agency compounds. According to local officials, approximately 32 deaths were reported during the fighting. In Nasir, the stand-off between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition continued as the two sides exchanged heavy gunfire near the UNMISS base. On 2 January, an SPLA foot patrol came under fire from the SPLA in Opposition close to the UNMISS base, damaging UNMISS accommodation containers and an UNMISS armoured personnel carrier. In subsequent days, UNMISS observed SPLA helicopters bombing and landing near SPLA in Opposition positions and exchange of small arms fire in Kuarenga, west of the UNMISS base. In northern Manyo County, clashes were reported between Aguelek Shilluk forces under the command of Johnson Olony and forces aligned with the National Democratic Movement under Lam Akol on 3 and 4 January. Two senior National Democratic Movement generals, Yohannes Okiech and Gabriel Tanginye, were reportedly killed during the clashes. Between 25 and 28 January, fighting took place between SPLA and General Olony's forces on the west bank of the Nile near Malakal, causing significant civilian displacement. SPLA heavily bombarded a position in Burkiny, south of Wau Shilluk. Heavy fighting reportedly also took place in Doleib Hill. On 30 January, fighting started between SPLA and opposition forces in the Renk area. On 8 February, SPLA reportedly clashed with Aguelek forces near their stronghold areas of Owachi (20 km south-west of Malakal town) and Tonga (80 km west of Malakal), resulting in significant casualties on both sides. Clashes were also reported in the Owachi area on 13 February with reports that SPLA had succeeded in taking control of the area. On 20 February, SPLA clashed with the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition in the general area of Canal (Khorfulus), Panyikang County. In Malakal, UNMISS observed the arrival of SPLA reinforcements and resupplies in the days leading up to 9 February, when UNMISS heard intermittent firing of heavy calibre weapons from the SPLA base north of the UNMISS base in Malakal towards the general direction of Wau Shilluk. UNMISS observed artillery landing on the west bank as well as around the SPLA base on the east bank of the Nile. In the following days, UNMISS observed SPLA moving both soldiers and civilians, as well as what appeared to be looted goods, from Wau Shilluk to Ditang by boat. The build-up of forces and reports of SPLA troop movements towards opposition positions north of Malakal indicate that continued confrontations are likely.

16. Insecurity in southern and central Unity persisted, with reports of troop mobilization, clashes between warring factions, looting and destruction of civilian property. The pro-Machar Opposition leadership claimed that a joint force of SPLA and opposition forces aligned with Taban Deng Gai attacked pro-Machar opposition positions in Koch and Mayendit Counties between 12 and 18 December, which resulted in at least 14 civilians killed and the looting of civilian property. On 27 December, pro-Machar opposition forces detained the government-appointed Panyijar County Commissioner after he landed in Ganyiel, Panyijar County. The pro-Machar opposition later claimed that the County Commissioner had defected. Separately, an SPLA colonel, with a number of SPLA soldiers, defected to the pro-Machar opposition in Rubkona. A road ambush allegedly committed by armed men

affiliated with the defected colonel near Mayom Junction on 10 January reportedly resulted in two SPLA soldiers killed and four others injured. In southern Unity, attacks and counter-attacks by government-aligned forces and the pro-Machar opposition continued in areas around Leer and Mayendit Counties, reportedly resulting in at least 10 civilians dead.

17. In Jonglei, clashes between SPLA and the pro-Machar SPLA in Opposition broke out in Panyok, Uror County, an opposition-controlled area, on 15 February. The SPLA consolidated its position in Yuai with SPLA reinforcement from Bor, including heavy equipment. Meanwhile, there were reports of insecurity on the Pibor-Gumuruk road. Two civilians were killed and five were wounded in an ambush at Kavagoch village. Armed men also attacked an SPLA vehicle and a cattle truck between Tangjon and Black Rock.

Greater Bahr el-Ghazal region

18. Sporadic clashes along established fault lines in Western Bahr el-Ghazal and reports of general lawlessness and uniformed men killing and harassing civilians around Wau continued. In other parts of the Bahr el-Ghazal region, incidents of cattle raiding, some involving SPLA soldiers, were reported. While the Government maintained control of the major towns in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, armed opposition elements remain present in the surrounding areas. SPLA and government-aligned groups continued to clash with opposition elements, including SPLA in Opposition, south of Wau, particularly around Bisellia and Bussere. Opposition forces were also reportedly active on the outskirts of Raga town and, on 30 December, the Governor of Lol was reportedly ambushed in an alleged targeted attack. Meanwhile, UNMISS access to areas beyond Wau and Aweil remained restricted by local authorities. In January, violence between pastoralists from Tonj and Gogrial, supported by government forces, and farmers in Wau aided by SPLA in Opposition elements led to killings, property damage, looting and civilian displacement.

Intercommunal conflicts

19. Incidents of intercommunal violence in Western Bahr el-Ghazal included attacks by armed Dinka cattle keepers in Melen, Wadalelo, Kwajena and Jur River Counties, which displaced approximately 5,500 civilians who fled to Wau town. To curb the violence, local authorities agreed on the return of pastoralists to their states of origin and identification and prosecution of those having caused insecurity. Insecurity in Jonglei increased during the dry season, involving cattle-raiding incidents in the greater Bor area. On 16 January, a cattle-raiding attack in Duk County resulted in 12 civilians killed. Six Ethiopian children were allegedly abducted by Murle cattle keepers in Pochala. On 19 January, Ethiopian authorities gave a 15-day deadline to Murle cattle keepers to return the abducted Ethiopian children. Peace dividends generated by a series of community consultations in Jonglei and Boma from May to December 2016 are at risk of being undermined by a resurgence of cattle raiding and child abductions. In Unity, the long-standing land and border conflict between Koch and Rubkona Counties was characterized by inter-county cattle raids and attacks. Local officials in Buaw, Koch County, claimed that armed youth from Rubkona had carried out cattle raids, resulting in the death of civilians. Intercommunal tensions in Rubkway, outside Leer, also led to civilian casualties. In Lakes, intercommunal tensions and cattle raiding remained a concern. On 30 December, 15 people were reportedly killed in fighting between Belle youth from Barghel Payam and Gok youth from Cueibet County.

IV. Humanitarian situation

20. During the reporting period, the humanitarian situation in South Sudan deteriorated significantly, with famine declared in parts of Unity, where just over 100,000 people are facing starvation. A further one million people elsewhere in the country are on the brink of famine. Since January, more than 108,600 people, the majority of whom are women and children, have fled South Sudan to Uganda. This brought the number of refugees in Uganda to more than 755,000 and the total number of South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda, to more than 1.54 million. Civilians also continued to be internally displaced, including as a result of clashes in and around Wau Shilluk. As at early February, there were more than 1.9 million internally displaced persons across the country.

21. Food insecurity and malnutrition continued to escalate during the reporting period. On 20 February, localized famine was declared in Leer and Mayendit Counties in Unity, with Koch deemed to be at high risk of famine. Some 4.9 million people in South Sudan are now severely food insecure, with this number expected to rise to 5.5 million at the height of the lean season in July if nothing is done to curb the severity and spread of the food crisis. More than one million children are estimated to be acutely malnourished. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report released on 20 February estimates that 14 out of 23 assessed counties have global acute malnutrition rates at or above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent, with some areas as high as 42 per cent.

22. Communicable diseases continued to spread. A cholera outbreak, which began in June 2016, continued in Lakes, Jonglei, Unity and Central Equatoria, with 5,085 cholera cases (55 per cent women), including 105 deaths (a case fatality rate of 2.06 per cent), reported in 12 counties as at 17 February. Malaria remained the leading cause of morbidity, followed by acute watery diarrhoea and acute respiratory infection. There were rising cases of the deadly tropical disease kala-azar, with 236 cases (138 of which were women) reported by 12 February. Measles cases have been confirmed in three counties since the start of the year and an active outbreak is ongoing in Wau, Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Violence and displacement in the greater Equatoria region have affected populations with the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS and have disrupted access to life-saving treatment. As part of an ongoing HIV/AIDS awareness campaign, UNMISS/UN Cares sensitized 61,330 persons (41,010 men and 20,320 women), in addition to 25,660 internally displaced persons (including 10,990 women) in UNMISS protection of civilians sites.

23. The operating environment remained challenging and dangerous throughout the reporting period, with insecurity due to planned or ongoing military operations resulting in ad hoc relocations of personnel and disruption of aid delivery in areas of high need. At least 116 aid workers were relocated from Central Equatoria, Upper Nile and Unity in December and at least 42 aid workers were relocated in January from Upper Nile and Unity. During the fighting in the Doro refugee camp in Maban County in December, humanitarian compounds and facilities, including health clinics and schools, were vandalized and looted. The fighting in Wau Shilluk forced humanitarian organizations to relocate aid workers and suspend key activities; humanitarian compounds and supplies were reportedly looted. It has also been reported that humanitarian compounds were looted during clashes in Yuai in February, with aid workers relocated to Motot and Walgak. In December, two senior aid workers, including the Country Director of the Norwegian Refugee Council, were deported from South Sudan, bringing the number of aid workers declared persona non grata, expelled or deported in November and December to four. In

January, at least three aid workers were killed, bringing the total number of aid workers killed since the crisis started to 70.

24. Humanitarian actors continued to respond, despite the challenges. In 2016, more than 5.1 million people had been reached with humanitarian assistance and protection and the humanitarian response plan was more than 85 per cent funded, with $1.1 billion received out of $1.3 billion required. On 21 February, the 2017 humanitarian response plan was launched, appealing for $1.6 billion to provide life-saving assistance and protection to 5.8 million people in dire need across the country. A concerted, multisectoral scale-up of the response is under way in counties affected by, and at risk of, famine.

V. Implementation of the mandated tasks of the Mission

A. Protection of civilians

25. In implementing its mandate to ensure that civilians, particularly displaced persons, are protected from physical violence, UNMISS continued to follow a coordinated three-tiered approach, including through the establishment of a protective environment and through support to the political process exercised through the good offices of my Special Representative. Following his arrival in January, my new Special Representative has engaged senior national leadership, including the President, as well as state-level officials, community leaders and the media, in field visits to Rumbek, Wau, Bentiu, Leer, Malakal and Yambio. He has stressed the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities to allow displaced civilians to return to their homes and for UNMISS freedom of movement to protect civilians. Along with the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan, he also engaged with key national actors outside the country on the margins of the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa in January to promote a return to the peace process. While my Special Representative continues to engage stakeholders inside South Sudan on reinvigorating the peace process, the Special Envoy leads our engagement with regional and international partners and national stakeholders located outside the country.

26. Under the first tier, protection through dialogue and political engagement, UNMISS delivered 41 workshops on subjects related to social cohesion, reconciliation and conflict management. Over 5,300 participants (of which 1,300 were women) were reached, including state and county officials, traditional leaders and youth and women's representatives in communities across the country and in UNMISS protection of civilians sites. Long-standing grievances and accountability related to abuses committed during the 2010 general election in Aweil East were addressed through a community-led forum facilitated by UNMISS. In Western Lakes, UNMISS facilitated a forum for state legislators addressing principal root causes of intercommunal conflict, including the consequences of high bride prices. A series of community consultations between the Dinka Bor of Jonglei and the Murle of Boma that began in May 2016 culminated in a peace conference in Pibor in December, supported by UNMISS, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund. The conference proposed solutions to address conflict manifestations, including cattle raiding and child abductions, livelihood options and inter-state collaboration on peacebuilding projects. In Yambio, UNMISS facilitated a workshop on the conflict management roles of youth, which was attended by members of the local youth union and current and former combatants. UNMISS conducted integrated missions to Yei in December and February and facilitated a dialogue forum on civil-military relations, attended by representatives from the state government and security organs and traditional, religious, youth and women leaders.

The UNMISS Aweil and Kuacjok field offices supported a cattle migration and cross-border conflict management conference between Aweil and Gogrial in January, resulting in an agreement on key principles to manage inter-state pastoral migration.

27. Under the second tier, protection of civilians under threat of physical violence, UNMISS continued to protect 223,926 internally displaced persons in six UNMISS protection of civilians sites nationwide, including 120,011 in Bentiu, 38,942 in Juba, 33,191 in Malakal, 681 in Melut, 1,976 in Bor and 28,925 in Wau.

28. As at 24 February, a total of 1,969 security incidents were reported in protection of civilians sites and 2,930 persons (of which 117 were women) were detained in three holding facilities in Juba, Bentiu and Malakal. To mitigate risks of violence and communal tensions in the sites, UNMISS conducted training and sensitization campaigns with residents, including community leaders, to underscore their responsibility to maintain the civilian character of the sites and to cooperate in operations to search for weapons. UNMISS, together with humanitarian partners, supported the process of selecting community leaders in the Bentiu and Malakal sites to promote inclusive community representation.

29. In Juba, UNMISS established dismounted integrated patrols, including military, police and civilian personnel, to facilitate engagement with host communities and internally displaced persons. During the period under review, UNMISS reported the confiscation of an increased amount of live ammunition in the weapons-free zone in Juba and a concurrent reduction of attacks against civilians and criminal activities. UNMISS conducted preliminary assessments to establish weapons-free zones around the Bentiu and Bor protection of civilians sites.

30. UNMISS continued to focus on proactive deployment and patrols aimed at deterring and pre-empting violence against civilians beyond the UNMISS protection of civilians sites. A total of 10,340 patrols were conducted during the reporting period, including to Kajo Keji and Yei. The temporary protection area in Leer, southern Unity, continues to offer refuge to internally displaced persons since the resumption of violence in August. UNMISS police continued weekly consultative meetings with the South Sudan National Police Service, community leaders and civil society on protection of civilians. UNMISS regularly conducted patrols outside the protection of civilians sites in Bentiu, Bor, Juba, Malakal and Wau to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and other crimes.

31. UNMISS intensified its efforts to enhance public awareness on zero-tolerance of sexual and gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence. As part of the 16 Days Campaign to Combat Violence Against Women, UNMISS, together with United Nations and national partners, articulated key messages around the campaign theme, "from peace at home to peace in South Sudan", and reached out to community watch groups, religious leaders and school teachers, whose perspectives influence gender relations and behaviour patterns of community members. Within the framework of the Global Open Day for Women and Peace dialogue initiative between the United Nations leadership and women leaders, UNMISS facilitated a women's peace forum in Wau, with similar events being planned in other locations.

B. Monitoring and investigating human rights

32. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to monitor, verify, investigate and report on alleged human rights violations and abuses, as well as alleged breaches of international humanitarian law. UNMISS also focused on monitoring, investigating and reporting on incidents of hate speech and incitement to violence.

Ongoing insecurity across the country and denials of access by the authorities continued to restrict the ability of UNMISS to monitor and verify alleged violations and abuses, including unlawful killings of civilians, cases of torture and other inhumane and degrading treatment, conflict-related sexual violence including rape and gang-rape, arbitrary arrest and detention, looting and destruction of civilian property, forced displacement of the civilian population and restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly. Although both government and opposition forces were responsible for human rights violations and abuses, government forces, including SPLA soldiers and National Security Service officers, committed most of the cases documented by UNMISS. This may in part be because UNMISS was not able to access all the areas controlled by SPLM/A in Opposition or other armed groups.

33. Between 14 and 17 February, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Juba and Malakal and met with representatives from the Government, security forces, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission, faith-based and civil society organizations, humanitarian partners and victims of human rights violations. In a press statement dated 17 February, he condemned the human rights situation, stating that SPLA had engaged in what could amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, and called for accountability for atrocity crimes, an end to arbitrary and prolonged detention and the safety of human rights defenders.

34. In December, the Mission established a working group on the prevention of mass atrocities to monitor hate speech through public statements made by South Sudanese leaders and on social media and local radio stations and to formulate a coherent United Nations-wide action plan to mitigate the risk of mass atrocities, supported by a Headquarters-level working group. In addition, UNMISS Radio Miraya has begun broadcasting the third series of a radio drama aimed at countering hate speech and incitement. The Mission also provided resource staff to train 25 South Sudanese journalists on conflict-sensitive journalism and countering hate speech at a workshop held by UNDP in November.

35. While fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition and allied armed groups continued to result in human rights violations and abuses across the country, the greater Equatoria and Upper Nile regions and Western Bahr el-Ghazal were most affected during the reporting period. The situation in Yei in Central Equatoria continued to be of serious concern. In early January, for instance, two SPLA soldiers allegedly opened fire at a funeral, killing at least one civilian and wounding five others. On 12 January, SPLA soldiers detained and shot at a group of 10 Kakwa youths, killing four of them instantly and injuring four others. SPLA soldiers detained a doctor who treated the injured and accused him of providing medical treatment to rebels, prevented the medical evacuation of two of the injured and detained three carers travelling with the men. At least one of the injured men later died of his injuries. SPLA soldiers and members of the allied Mathiang Anyoor militia were also reportedly responsible for other killings and burning down homes around Yei. On 16 January, for instance, Mathiang Anyoor reportedly burned down at least 14 houses in Lutaya and the Catholic diocesan pastoral centre. Elsewhere in Central Equatoria, during violence in Kajo Keji, there were reports of SPLA attacks on civilians including killings, conflict-related sexual violence and burning down of homes, resulting in massive displacement of the civilian population. On 11 February, in Kubi village SPLA indiscriminately attacked civilians, raped an unconfirmed number of women and detained approximately 48 people, all but four of whom were later released.

36. In Western Equatoria in early January, SPLA soldiers attacked Banzungu Payam and the surrounding area, killed and injured civilians, raped women and burned down property. SPLA soldiers frequently accused civilians of supporting the

"rebels". The attacks resulted in large-scale civilian displacement, with the Catholic Church compound in Rimenze hosting at least 5,000 internally displaced persons by mid-January.

37. At least five civilians reportedly died as a result of fighting between SPLA and SPLM/A in Opposition in Upper Nile on 25 January and over 20 were injured in Wau Shilluk on 27 and 28 January. According to witness testimonies, SPLA conducted house-to-house searches, torched homes, looted property and shot dead a man in the market area and a woman in her home; a burned body was found in the remains of a house. Humanitarian partners reported the arrival of about 18,000 internally displaced persons in Kodok (50 km north-west of Malakal) and over 13,500 in Aburoc (25 km north-west of Kodok) as a result of ongoing hostilities. SPLA has repeatedly prevented UNMISS from travelling to Wau Shilluk and to Kodok to verify these reports.

38. There was a spike in attacks by unidentified armed groups on civilians during the reporting period, particularly in Eastern Equatoria and Central Equatoria. These included an attack by a group of armed men on a vehicle traveling from Juba to Torit at Khordilep, about 24 km from Torit on 16 December. The attackers set the vehicle on fire and killed 8 of the 11 passengers. In an attack in Jonglei on 25 December, armed men shot seven civilians dead and wounded two others in Baping village, Nyuak Payam, Twic East County.

39. Human rights violations continued to arise in the administration of justice. UNMISS documented repeated cases of prolonged and arbitrary detention, proxy detention, executive interference in the justice system, arrests for civil matters and the detention of minors alongside adults, and detention conditions failed to meet international human rights standards. UNMISS also documented cases of politically motivated detention. The National Security Service continued to hold individuals incommunicado with no access to family members or to a lawyer in its detention facilities, including in Jebel, Juba. SPLM/A in Opposition spokesperson James Gadtek Dak has been detained incommunicado by the National Security Service since his deportation from Nairobi to South Sudan on 3 November. Mr. Dak had refugee status in Kenya.

40. The authorities continued to crack down on freedom of expression, assembly and association. On 24 January, SPLA soldiers arrested four journalists in Juba, one from UNMISS Radio Miraya and three others who were covering the provision of free medical services by a team of Moroccan military doctors. The soldiers held and interrogated the journalists for five hours and accused three of them of broadcasting coverage critical of the Government. In Wau, National Security Service officers detained 11 civil servants, including two women, on 10 and 11 January, and held them incommunicado for two days. The civil servants were allegedly detained in relation to a dispute over reassignment to Lol following the division of Western Bahr el-Ghazal. Two were subsequently released, while the other nine were forcibly transferred to Raja in Lol.

41. In line with resolution 2327 (2016), UNMISS continued to monitor, investigate, verify and report specifically and publicly on violations and abuses committed against children. During the reporting period, a total of 38 incidents, affecting 1,084 children (582 boys and 502 girls), were documented and verified in South Sudan through the monitoring and reporting mechanism on grave violations against children in situations of armed conflict. Most of the incidents reported named SPLA and SPLA in Opposition, both Riek Machar and Taban Deng Gai factions, as the perpetrators. The most recurrent documented violations included the recruitment and use of children by :he parties to the conflict (48 per cent of incidents), killing and maiming of children (21 per cent), attacks on or military use

of schools (12 per cent), sexual violence against minor girls (9 per cent), attacks on hospitals (5 per cent) and the abduction of children and denial of humanitarian access (5 per cent). In December, children were most exposed to violations in Central Equatoria and Western Equatoria (where 46 and 36 per cent, respectively, of all violations were reported). In January, children were most exposed to violations in Unity (55 per cent of all violations recorded).

C. Creating conditions conducive to delivery of humanitarian assistance

42. UNMISS presence in Yambio (Western Equatoria) and Torit (Eastern Equatoria) helped to create conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance inside the towns. UNMISS increased patrolling in and around Torit town in the light of the deteriorating situation there. In Western Equatoria, UNMISS undertook a patrol with humanitarian partners to assess the situation of internally displaced persons in Rimenze. The sustained presence of UNMISS in Leer town, through its temporary operating base, enabled humanitarian organizations to carry out missions to assist displaced persons sheltering in the temporary protection area there. Furthermore, UNMISS military undertook additional patrols in areas around the Bentiu protection of civilians site in line with the "beyond Bentiu" strategy. UNMISS also worked with humanitarian actors to develop contingency plans in Juba, Bor, Bentiu, Malakal, Melut, Wau, Torit and Yambio, including the pre-positioning of life-saving items in United Nations premises.

43. With the onset of the dry season, UNMISS reinforced efforts to create conditions conducive to delivery of humanitarian assistance. UNMISS maintained approximately 530 km of main supply roads across the country, enabling humanitarian organizations to pre-position aid supplies during the dry season. When requested as a last resort, UNMISS provided force protection for food drops, convoys and other humanitarian activities in various locations. UNMISS patrols, aimed at accessing areas where violence, displacement and human rights violations had been reported, were frequently denied freedom of movement.

44. The Mine Action Service deployed 28 mine action teams to survey and clear roads, airstrips and helicopter landing sites to facilitate security and humanitarian access. A total area of 2,161,713 square metres was surveyed and released, in addition to the removal and destruction of 16,666 explosive hazards and 137,216 pieces of small arms ammunition.

D. Supporting the implementation of the peace agreement

45. Overall progress in the implementation of the peace agreement has been minimal. UNMISS police provided support to the South Sudan National Police Service on the establishment of the Joint Integrated Police, including the development of an overarching strategy, the concept of operations and terms of reference. The joint management team comprising officers from the South Sudan National Police Service and the South Sudan National Police Service in Opposition, led by First Vice President Taban Deng Gai, in close coordination with UNMISS police, developed and approved a training plan and curriculum for the Joint Integrated Police with UNDP providing logistical support. So far, 66 senior officers (4 women) have been undergoing training in the police training centre and preparations are under way for the training of the remaining 1,121 (216 women) members, who are currently under review in accordance with the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

46. On 25 January, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism held its first board meeting since 30 June 2016 with representation from SPLA, the pro-Taban faction of SPLA in Opposition and former political detainees. Meanwhile, with the deployment of two new Monitoring and Verification Teams of the Mechanism to UNMISS bases at Pibor and Leer, a total of 11 teams are now operational. Lack of freedom of movement and security clearances for patrols remain a challenge.

47. The Secretariat continued to engage with the African Union Commission regarding the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan, in full respect with the African Union's lead responsibility in this matter. Officials of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission met both in New York and in Addis Ababa. The Office of Legal Affairs provided suggestions for consideration in the preparation of draft constitutive legal instruments for the Hybrid Court. The Secretariat remains committed to providing technical assistance in setting up the Hybrid Court and for the implementation of other aspects of chapter V of the peace agreement, pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2241 (2015), 2252 (2015) and 2327 (2016).

VI. Mission staffing and status of deployment of surge capacity

48. As at 23 February, the strength of UNMISS civilian personnel stood at 2,555, including 837 international staff members, 1,350 national staff members and 386 United Nations Volunteers. The UNMISS police strength stood at 1,561 of the authorized 2,101 officers, including 665 individual police officers, 67 corrections officers and 829 personnel in formed police units. The deployment of 160 Rwandese formed police unit personnel to Juba is pending final clearances. The deployment of 170 Ghanaian formed police unit personnel has been delayed owing to lack of readiness of troops and equipment. The UNMISS troop strength stood at 11,746 military personnel, including 180 military observers, 368 military staff officers and 11,198 military contingent personnel. Following the withdrawal of the Kenyan infantry battalion, a 255-strong advance party of the incoming Bangladeshi infantry battalion deploying to replace the Kenyans arrived. The Cambodian level II hospital in Juba has been replaced by an Indian level II-plus hospital. In addition, the induction of military engineers from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is ongoing and will be followed by the induction of level II hospital personnel in April/May. UNMISS has been experiencing delays in the deployment of uniformed personnel since December because of changed entry requirements imposed by the Government of South Sudan, which led in February to the stranding of over 200 uniformed personnel in Entebbe, Uganda, or Nairobi awaiting re-entry clearances, some for over a month. As at 23 February, 45 police personnel, three corrections officers and 95 military personnel were awaiting visa and/or re-entry clearances.

49. There has been minimal progress in the deployment of the regional protection force since the Transitional Government of National Unity conveyed its unconditional consent for the immediate deployment of the force in November. The allocation of a plot of land for the force near United Nations House in Juba is well under way. Nonetheless, there are critical outstanding issues to be resolved with the Government, including the mandate of the force to protect Juba International Airport and the allocation of a second piece of land for the force north of Juba. The Government has yet to respond to the Mission's request to convene a joint security assessment of the airport. Reconnaissance teams from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Rwanda visited South Sudan in preparation for the deployment of the force.

50. During the reporting period, UNMISS continued to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse pursuant to his report on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (A/69/779). In addition, the arrival of an UNMISS Military Gender Adviser enhances the gender expertise of the Mission's military component and its readiness to respond to sexual and gender-based violence cases. UNMISS also trained 47 Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism officers (6 women) on gender, sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

VII. Violations of the status-of-forces agreement, international humanitarian law and security of United Nations personnel

51. During the reporting period, UNMISS recorded 48 violations of the status-of-forces agreement, 22 of which were restrictions of movement affecting UNMISS personnel and contractors engaged in tasks exclusively related to the Mission mandate. Other violations recorded by UNMISS included imposition of new immigration conditions specific to UNMISS personnel for entry into South Sudan, levying of fees for issuance of visas and work permits for UNMISS personnel and international contractors and their employees, four physical assaults on UNMISS personnel and UNMISS international contractors, one direct threat to open fire on members of an UNMISS patrol team returning to the UNMISS base in Bor and nine cases of arrest and detention. The arrest and detention violations included harassment, temporary detention and questioning by the authorities of an UNMISS radio journalist while on duty and the prolonged detention of three staff members, including another UNMISS radio journalist, arrested in 2014 without charges. The National Security Service has denied access to UNMISS to visit them since December 2015. UNMISS also reported the forcible entry into UNMISS premises in Bentiu and abduction of an individual by an unspecified number of SPLA soldiers and the forceful boarding and search of UNMISS aircraft by an unspecified number of SPLA soldiers in Malakal to verify the identity of a passenger. The Mission continues to notify the host Government of the violations of the status-of-forces agreement through notes verbales and in meetings with relevant officials. A monthly matrix of incidents is also shared with the Government.

52. In an effort to enhance understanding of the UNMISS mandate, the Mission launched a comprehensive communications strategy, including greater interaction between the media and Mission senior leadership and the production of weekly radio programmes on UNMISS Radio Miraya. To further expand coverage, radio content is being distributed to community radio stations for re-broadcast, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

VIII. Financial aspects

53. The General Assembly, by its resolution 70/281, appropriated the amount of $1,081,788,400 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017. As at 13 February 2017, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNMISS Special Account amount to $574.8 million. Total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at the same date amount to $1,980.0 million. Reimbursement of troop and formed police costs for contingent-owned equipment has been made for the period up to 30 September 2016, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

IX. Observations and recommendations

54. I remain deeply alarmed by the continued violence between government and opposition forces in several parts of South Sudan, particularly across the greater Equatoria and Upper Nile regions as well as in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, which have resulted in a dire crisis, with significant civilian displacements, serious and systematic reported human rights violations and abuses, and famine.

55. Many of those who fled the ongoing violence have given harrowing accounts of killings of civilians, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and other inhumane and degrading treatment, conflict-related sexual violence including rape and gang-rape, and looting and destruction of civilian property. I call on all political and military actors to immediately cease hostilities across the country and remind the Government of its obligation to prevent these horrendous crimes and hold perpetrators accountable.

56. Continued insecurity has led to a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. The number of people on the brink of starvation or forced to flee from their homes is staggering. Urgent action is needed to prevent further atrocities and ensure humanitarian access to address the desperate needs. I urge all members of the international community to lend support, both through their influence on the parties to the conflict and by funding humanitarian operations.

57. UNMISS has, in an effort to protect civilians from physical violence and establish a protective environment, intensified its presence and active patrolling in areas at risk of conflict and with high concentrations of displaced persons. Yet, the Mission and its partners continue to face numerous access restrictions, including the obstruction of patrols and humanitarian operations and the denial and delay of entry into the country of United Nations personnel, which prevent UNMISS from fulfilling its core mandated tasks. I welcome Mr. Kiir's renewed pledge to restore freedom of movement for UNMISS and humanitarian actors, but this must be translated into concrete action on the ground. This is an issue that also requires a strong intervention from the Security Council, which receives monthly reports on restrictions of movement and access imposed on UNMISS. I look forward, as well, to the full support of IGAD and the African Union, and intend to engage with them actively as part of the ongoing efforts to remove the many impediments that are crippling the implementation of the mandate of UNMISS and making it extremely challenging to deliver support to the millions of South Sudanese in need of assistance.

58. I urge the Government to expedite facilitating the deployment of the authorized regional protection force as an important confidence-building measure and a step towards enhancing security in Juba. Continued political and diplomatic support from regional and international partners to help create an environment conducive to the expeditious deployment of the regional protection force is equally critical.

59. Killing, assault and harassment of United Nations personnel and humanitarian workers are not only a violation of international law but represent unforgiveable acts committed against people who have left their own countries to serve the people of South Sudan. I call upon Mr. Kiir and Mr. Machar to issue clear and public orders to their respective forces that such acts must cease immediately and that those found guilty of committing such offences will face justice in an expeditious manner.

60. I have welcomed the launch by Mr. Kiir of a national dialogue process proposed to start at the grass-roots level and culminate at the national level. I note his call on regional and international partners to support the process so as to

enhance its credibility and effectiveness. It is my expectation and earnest hope that the dialogue would be conducted with a genuine commitment to restoring peace and in a manner that promotes national reconciliation and intercommunal harmony among all groups and interests across South Sudan. In this respect, I am deeply concerned that, in variance with its statement on the national dialogue, the Government is actively participating in the continuous escalation of the armed conflict, with all the dire human consequences I have referred to. Clearly, a national dialogue is incompatible with the current situation, in which the country is embroiled in an armed conflict stoked by ethnic antagonisms and the protection and freedoms of civilians are profoundly constrained or violated. For the national dialogue to be viable, armed hostilities must cease across South Sudan, the dialogue must be guided by an impartial entity that enjoys broad nation-wide acceptance and the process must be inclusive of all South Sudanese stakeholders. The Government must create conditions in which South Sudanese of all backgrounds and political persuasions feel sufficiently free, and sufficiently protected, to participate in the national dialogue and to express their views without fear.

61. During a joint consultative meeting on the margins of the twenty-eighth African Union Summit, the African Union, IGAD and the United Nations unequivocally expressed deep concern over the continuing spread of fighting and the dire humanitarian situation in South Sudan. Stating our continued collective commitment to the search for lasting peace, security and stability in the country, we affirmed that there can only be a political solution to the conflict, within the framework of the 2015 peace agreement.

62. It is the responsibility of the country's leaders to make the decisions necessary to achieve progress towards sustainable peace. I am encouraged by my meeting with Mr. Kiir on the margins of the African Union Summit, during which we reaffirmed our determination to enhance cooperation in support of the South Sudan peace process. The United Nations also remains firmly committed to working closely with the African Union High Representative for South Sudan, Alpha Oumar Konaré; the Chair of the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission, Festus Mogae; IGAD member States; and other partners to ensure inclusivity in the implementation of the peace agreement and the proposed national dialogue process.

63. Lastly, I wish to convey my sincere appreciation for the unwavering commitment of UNMISS personnel, who, under the able leadership of my Special Representative, David Shearer, continue to protect hundreds of thousands of civilians, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and promote an inclusive political process. In particular, I thank the troop- and police-contributing countries that have provided essential uniformed personnel and assets to the Mission. I further commend the United Nations country team and non-governmental organization partners for their courage and sacrifice to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance to the population, often in perilous circumstances.